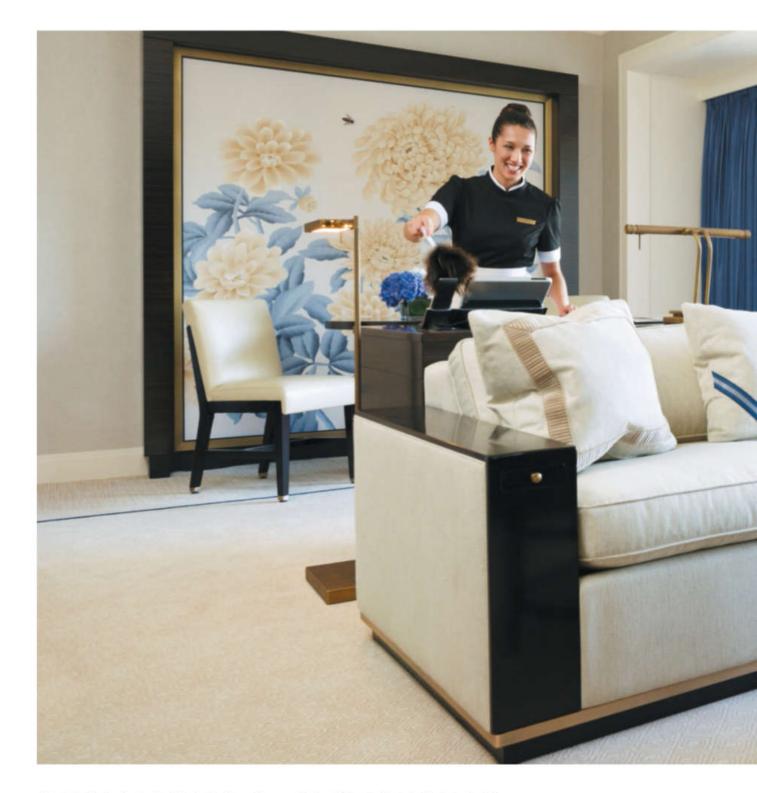


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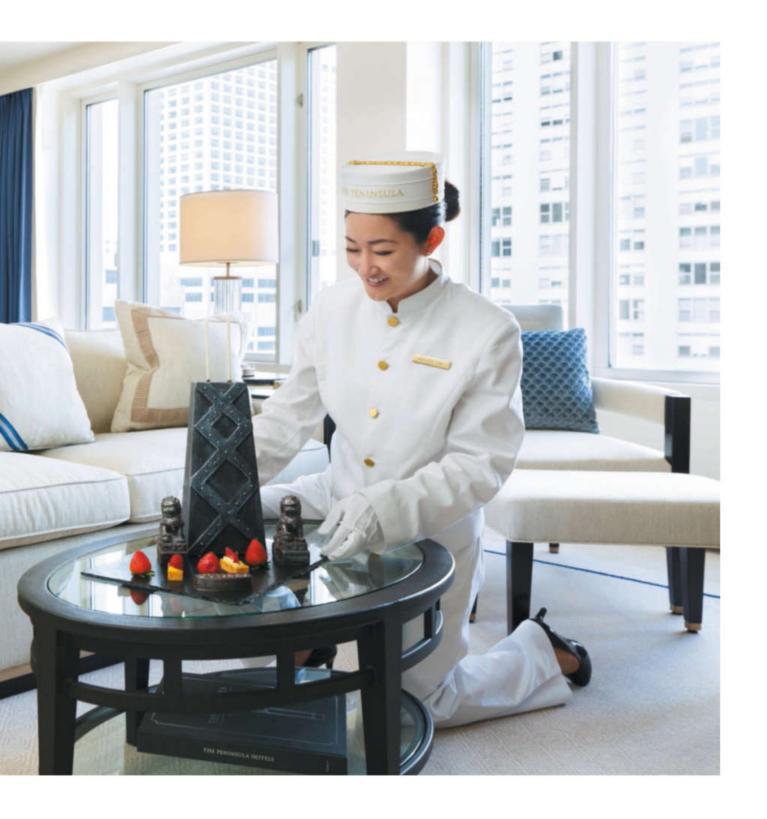
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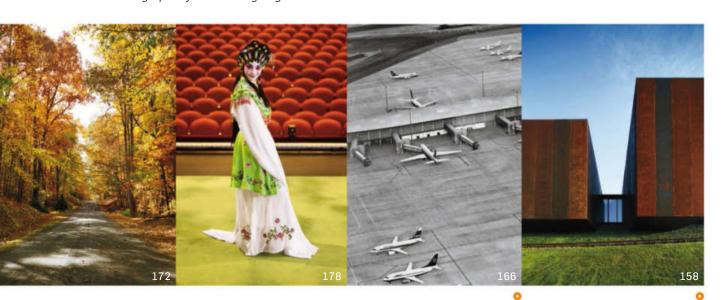


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features

- **158** La France Profonde A place of rugged and austere beauty, with long-cherished artisanal traditions and seldom-seen masterpieces of art and architecture, the department of Aveyron is the enigmatic heart of the country. Elaine Sciolino uncovers the mysteries of one of the last secret corners of France. Photographs by Simon Watson
- 166 Here, There, and Everywhere In his new book, Jet Lag, photographer Chien-Chi Chang captures the sense of dislocation every traveler knows. And as Walter Kirn suggests, there's humanity in the places between places, if only you open your eyes.
- **A Very Good Year** Virginia's best Cabs and Chardonnays aren't household names—but they should be. After decades in the shadow of Napa and Sonoma, the East Coast's unsung wine destination is finally coming of age, with superb vintages and restaurants to match. By Ted Loos. Photographs by Katherine Wolkoff
- **Generation HK** As the prodemocratic movement in Hong Kong tries to gain steam—and the world watches—a new wave of artists, musicians, and activists is filling the city with entrepreneurial energy and newfound optimism. By Jeff Chu. Photographs by Frédéric Lagrange



On the Cover

Introducing T+L Journeys, bookable once-in-a-lifetime experiences, like riding camelback through Morocco's Erg Chebbi sand dunes, page 113. Photograph by Matthew Thompson.

TO READ PHOTOG-RAPHER CHIEN-CHI CHANG'S ACCOUNT OF LIFE ON THE ROAD AND TO SEE MORE OF HIS WORK, VISIT TANDL.ME/JETLAG

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JOHNNIE WALKER.



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23 News, Trends, Discoveries

Chicago's latest hotel boom; Medellín, Colombia, cleans up its act; the fabulous world of Tommy Hilfiger; urban trekkers for men; great new fall reads; England's legendary Cliveden estate gets a stately redo; updated haute cuisine in Paris; private jets on the rise; exclusive deals on foliage-themed getaways; and more.

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113 A World of Possibilities

Introducing T+L Journeys exclusive, bookable, one-of-akind trips created by our editors in partnership with top travel company Black Tomato.

Upgrade

145 Travel Smarter T+L and Fortune's second annual Best in Business Travel survey, including top cities and airlines, along with tips for how to squeeze more fun into your next work trip. Plus Ingenious packing solutions.







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JOHNNIE WALKER.



THIS MONTH ON TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM

DIG IN: LA PAZ, **BOLIVIA**

Few travelers have discovered the pleasures of Bolivian cuisine, but thanks to ambitious new chefs and exciting indigenous dishes, that's about to change. tandl.me/lapazfood

SLIDESHOW: FALL HOTEL OPENINGS

T+L highlights the most anticipated properties of the season, from luxe hillside retreats to chic urban boltholes (like San Antonio's Hotel Emma, below). tandl.me/newfallhotels

SPOTLIGHT: INDIAN **SUMMERS PREMIERE**

This new Masterpiece series, set during the decline of the British Empire in India, is filled with drama—starting with the jaw-dropping Himalayan landscapes. tandl.me/indiansummers



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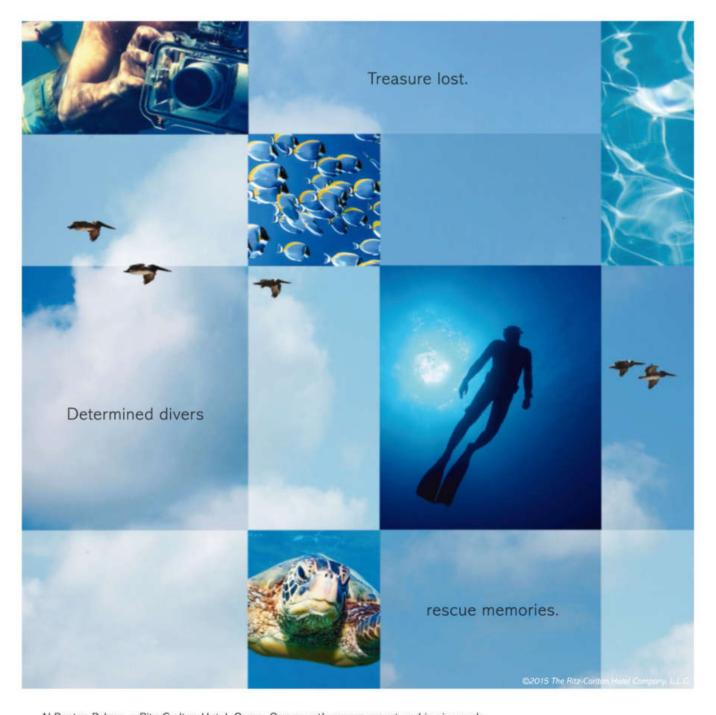
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LOOKOUT

This month, we introduce T+L Journeys, a new collection of bookable vacations—from Italy to Iceland, Chile to California—tailormade by our editors in partnership with the travel company Black Tomato. To check out the full day-by-day itineraries, go to tandl.me/journeys.

-ROM LEFT: MEDFORD TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES; JASON RISNER PHOTOGRAPHY; NEW PICTURES/CHANNEL 4 FOR MASTERPIECE IN ASSOCIATION WITH ALL3MEDIA INTERNATIONAL



Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Oman. One guest's memory captured in six words. A true story featuring two of our determined Gentlemen who retrieved a camera from the ocean, returning a guest's treasured photos. What story will you tell? ritzcarlton.com/letusstay

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Elaine Sciolino

WRITER

La France Profonde page 158

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The former New York Times Paris bureau chief has lived in France since 2002 but only recently took a full-scale tour of the lesser-known southern department of Aveyron. "The region's landscape is so pure," she says. "Its roads look just as they did a century ago, without traffic or billboards." Her trip highlights: the Musée Fenaille, in the town of Rodez, and meals like baby goat with sorrel at Chez Colette, in Cassuéjouls. One regret? "Not seeing the Knights Templar fortress towns." Her new book, The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs (W. W. Norton & Co.), comes out in November. Follow Elaine on Twitter: @elainesciolino.

2

Chien-Chi Chang

PHOTOGRAPHER

Here, There, and Everywhere page 166

_

"Jet lag is a universal experience that is rarely examined, only complained about," says the documentary photographer, who spends two-thirds of the year on the road. This issue features selections from Jet Lag, his new book that chronicles life in transit: busy terminals, featureless hotel rooms, runways that are never still. "What makes an airport is the tension between waiting and leaving," he says. "Travel today, like my photos, is black and white: the time you depart and arrive, security questions, the service you receive. What's important are those moments, the shades of gray, in between." Follow Chien-Chi on Instagram: @chien_chi_chang.

Jeff Chu

WRITER

Generation HK
page 178

_

"Hong Kong is such a unique mix of cultures because of its heritage as an import-export center-not only of goods but of ideas and cuisines, attitudes and fashions," says Chu, who reported on the intersection of creativity and politics in the city. "The worst thing would be for it to become just another big city in China." Chu has been visiting Hong Kong since he was a child, and no trip for him is complete without a ride on the Star Ferry, breakfast at a cha chaan teng (the local version of a diner), or buying stamps at the post office. "Stamps are fantastic little windows into local design and values." Follow Jeff on Twitter: @jeffchu.

Walter Kirn

WRITER

Here, There, and Everywhere page 166

_

"The best airports have local food and color associated with a real place," says the author of the novel Up in the Air, "but also a generic global character that makes you feel like you're part of something larger." For Kirn, who for this issue wrote about the sense of dislocation that comes with travel, a trip is an opportunity to try on a new self-to pick up new habits or fall into bad ones. As for traveler's fatigue? "There is no remedy. Jet lag is the biological price we pay for the miracle of mechanical mobility. And it is worth it." His true-crime memoir, Blood Will Out (Liveright), was recently released in paperback. Follow Walter on Twitter: @walterkirn.

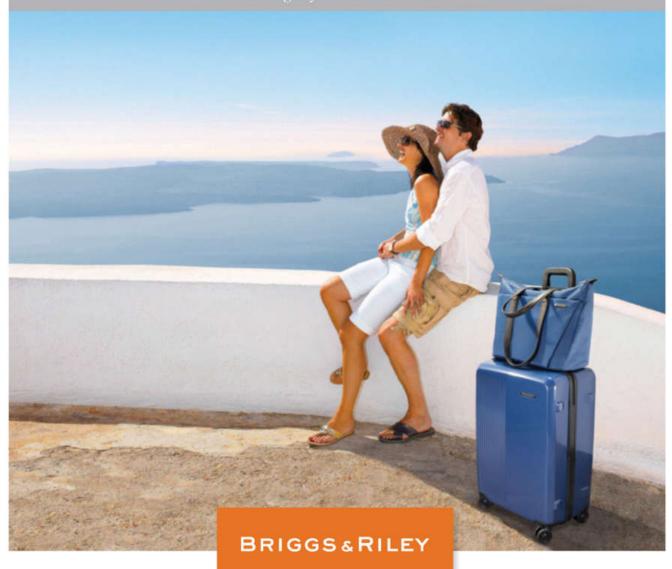


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At Travel + Leisure, we've focused for decades on inspiring you to explore the world. That's why we provide tons of recommendations throughout the magazine and on our website, offer useful strategies for making smart decisions in the Upgrade section, and help guide you to the right



travel specialists (our complete list of recommended agents is online at tandl.me/alist2015). Still, I've always thought we could do even more to serve you better.

In this issue, we're taking a big step in that direction with T+L Journeys—full-fledged trips that you can book by simply picking up the phone or sending an e-mail. To create them, our editors began with two questions: Where are the places that we most want to go right now? And which experiences have enough wow factor to make us jump on a plane in a heartbeat? Then, working with the highly respected travel company Black Tomato, we turned those ideas into complete itineraries, drawing on our collective experience and knowledge of the best places to go and things to do. The result is 20 incredible trips that you won't find anywhere else.

We're excited about T+L Journeys, and everyone on our staff has a favorite (mine's an epic cross-country adventure in Canada). Beginning on page 113, we've brought them to life—full trip details are at tandl.me/journeys—and we're sure you'll share our enthusiasm, whether you're ready to hit the road now or just dreaming about adventures to come.



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the conversation



In recent years, travelers have been given a choice by ATMs and merchants to select what's called "dynamic currency conversion": an option to convert the amount of your bill or cash withdrawal to your home currency on the spot—instead of your bank doing it later. The benefit is knowing right then exactly how much you're spending in dollars, but the risk, says ThePointsGuy.com founder Brian Kelly, is overpaying because of a worse conversion rate, plus a fee for the service that is often undisclosed to the customer. "You could be adding up to seven percent to your purchase," he says. The final word: Always choose to be charged in the local currency, and use a credit card that waives all foreign transaction fees (read our recommendations at tandl.me/rewardcards). To stay abreast of the most current rates, download Oanda's Currency Converter app, which tracks the day's rates for more than 190 currencies.

ON OUR WATCH

LAGUARDIA AIRPORT

An airport, for many travelers, is the first and last impression of a place. But in a world of beautiful gateways—Singapore Changi Airport, Munich Airport—New York City's hubs fall embarrassingly short. In fact, *Travel + Leisure* readers voted LaGuardia America's worst airport this year. Vice President Joe Biden famously referred to it as what you'd find in "some third-world country." In July, New York governor Andrew Cuomo announced an ambitious, \$4 billion plan to replace the dingy, cramped, and outdated maze with a sleek, navigable facility fit for modern travel. According to the federal Bureau of Transportation Statistics, just 73 percent of LGA's flights left on time in 2014, yet proposed plans don't include runway expansion. So is it an improvement or a waste of tax dollars? Here's what people are saying.

"The positive to this plan is glitzy new terminals that make passengers feel better about using LGA, but these improvements do nothing to meet the ever-increasing and future air transportation needs of the NYC metro area. FOUR BILLION IS A VERY EXPENSIVE BAND-AID." — JERRY JACOBSON, ON FACEBOOK

"If the choice were between the current airport with on-time flights and a fancy new building with the same delays, we bet New Yorkers would happily keep LGA a craphole and banish dissenters to the even more rundown Penn Station." — JORDAN GOLSON, WIRED.COM

"We're finally going to have an airport equal to Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia's name."

-MITCHELL L. MOSS,
DIRECTOR
OF THE NYU RUDIN
CENTER FOR
TRANSPORTATION
POLICY &
MANAGEMENT,
TO THE
NEW YORK TIMES

"Governor Cuomo just announced a massive project to renovate the crumbling LaGuardia Airport. No word on when they'll tear it down, BUT THEY'RE ASKING PASSENGERS NOT TO LEAN TOO HARD AGAINST THE WALLS."

— JIMMY FALLON, ON THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON

$\#\mathrm{TLPICKS}$

THE LATEST FROM OUR WIDE WORLD OF INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS: POSTCARD-WORTHY BRIDGES OF CONCRETE, WOOD, AND STONE.



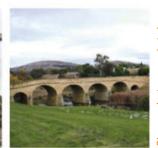
"I have all that I need" at New York's Mohonk Mountain House, says @veronikadresko22.



"Gravitating towards nature's beauty" in Purple Bamboo Park, Beijing, by @intravelwetrust.



A "souvenir photograph" of California's Bixby Creek Bridge, in Big Sur, by @pthep_sf.



"#DiscoverTasmania" at Richmond Bridge, says @teapear.

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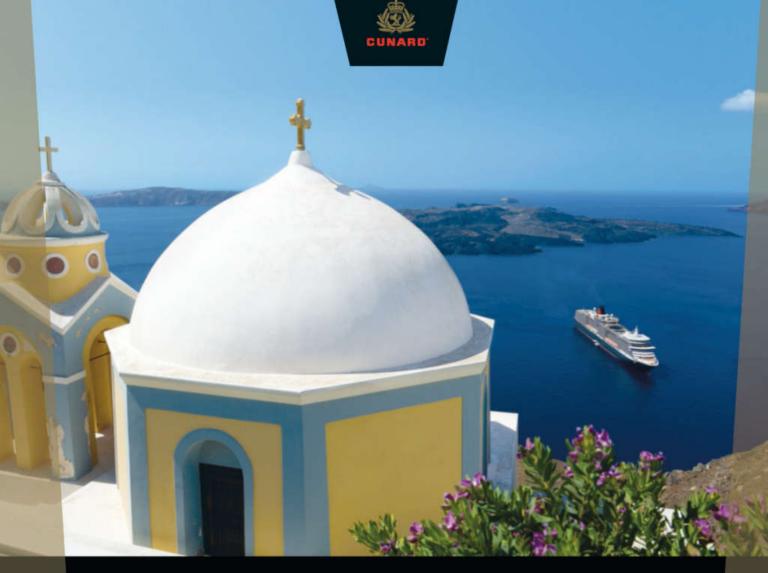
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TOP: TARA DONNE (2); COURTESY OF THE FREEHAND CHICAGO

/ here&now /

THERE'S A NEW CROSSTOWN CLASSIC playing out in the Windy City-but this one's among a crew of visionary hoteliers instead of between the White Sox and the Cubs. No fewer than nine stylish hotels are opening this year, almost all of them within a one-mile radius of each other downtown. Why the sudden surge? Affordable buildings with great bones are luring developers, and more and more flights to the city are drawing travelers. We checked in to a few of these newcomers to compare notes on everything from location and amenities to art and artisanal coffee.

THE NEW GRANDE DAME CHICAGO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HOTEL

Across from Millennium Park, in a 1893 building that served as one of America's first homes for organized sports, the CAA is the city's most talkedabout opening. The painstakingly restored, Roman & Williams-designed hotel is filled with nods to its past: the ornate millwork in the lobby is original, and fencing-court floors are used as wall paneling in the elevator. There's a game room for bocce and foosball, the steak house now has a beloved local chef, Peter Coenen, and the old speakeasy serves Stumptown coffee. As for the 241 rooms, they're masculine with a modern edge (one has a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, repainted so he's wearing a flat-brimmed baseball cap). chicagoathletichotel.com; doubles from \$269.

CLEVER CROWD-PLEASER VIRGIN HOTELS

Chicagoans take their coffee seriously-this is the origin of Intelligentsia and Sparrow Coffee Roasters-and so do the city's hoteliers. At this hotel, you'll find a DIY pour-over kit tucked into a cabinet beside the mini-bar, complete with a kettle, multiple filters, a glass cone dripper, and grounds from Bow Truss Coffee. It's one of many thoughtful details—like the reasonably priced room service and the inventive spa, with five moody, podlike rooms where you can get the trademark jet-lagcuring massage—that make this opening shine. virgin hotels.com; doubles from \$329.

AN ICON REBORN THE PENINSULA

The Chicago classic on the Magnificent Mile has unveiled a thorough makeover inspired



CHEAP AND CHIC THE FREEHAND

Almost half the rooms are shared quarters in this hostelhotel hybrid, also designed by Roman & Williams. Like its Miami predecessor, the focus is on what goes on downstairs:

FROM TOP: Patterned travertine in the Loews lobby; coffee in bed at the Virgin hotel; the cozy first floor of the Freehand.



by the company's recent Paris opening. Like its palatial French sibling, the rooms bear every conceivable technological upgrade (the digital displays on the light switches can be translated into 11 languages with the push of a button). And the hotel's perks are in a class by themselves: take a free cooking lesson with Curtis Duffy at the Michelin threestarred Grace. peninsula.com; doubles from \$630.

THE SURPRISING STUNNER LOEWS CHICAGO HOTEL there's an outpost of the tikiinspired Broken Shaker; a coffee bar churns out excellent Nicaraguan brews; and a kitchen serves comfort food like toast topped with berries, balsamic, and ricotta. the free hand.com; doubles from \$259.

COMING SOON

The Chicago hotel boom is far from over. Before the end of 2016, the stylish Mexico-based Grupo Habita will open its second U.S. property in hip Wicker Park. and a Nobu Hotel will launch just steps from the West Loop's restaurant row





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ON THE VERGE

Colombia's New Cool

THE ONCE-DODGY MEDELL IN HAS BECOME A CULTURALLY PROGRESSIVE URBAN CENTER.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Barbecue restaurant Humo; the new wing at the Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín; ceviche at Ocio.

IN THE RANKING OF HOT NEW Colombian destinations, Medellín has suddenly overtaken both Bogotá and Cartagena. Ongoing peace talks with rebel groups have inspired new confidence among residents, and the city received a major tourism boost when Delta announced daily direct flights from the United States starting in December.

One of the most striking developments is the Metrocable, a ski lift-like system of gondolas that links the center with traditionally poorer hillside areas. Arts projects are also booming: in September the lauded



Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín (elmamm. org), in a former steel mill, debuted a groundbreaking extension, making it the country's largest art museum.

The city's food scene is buzzing, especially in upscale El Poblado. Residents have embraced Humo BBQ & Bar (carmen restaurante.com.co; entrées \$9-\$18), with its menu of shaved-ice cocktails and housesmoked meats. "Diners are more open to trying new flavors and preparations," says co-owner and chef Carmen Angel. Ocio (restauranteocio.com; entrées \$10-\$13), two streets away, is almost always packed. There, co-owners Laura Londoño and Santiago Arango serve dishes made with local ingredients in a wood-and-exposed-brick space. The neighborhood of Manila, with its leafy streets, is blossoming with eateries like Sata Parilla Moderna (11A-46 Carr. 43E; entrées \$5-\$10) and Amarillo Chocolate (43D-50 Calle 13), a gourmet bakery.

Nightlife has evolved, too-in the early 2000s, many clubs were in malls for security. "People looked at parties as dangerous," says Manolo Arango. He's a founding member of the Breakfast Club, a collective of seven DJs and entrepreneurs whose goal is to advance Medellín's music scene. Last year they opened the boho-style bar Salón Amador (salonamador.com). Now, he says, "the nightlife of Medellín"—like the rest of the city—"is definitively changing."

-NELL MCSHANE WULFHART

WORLDLY GOODS

BASIC INSTINCT

Based in Hannover, Germany, accessory designer Philipp Bree draws clear comparisons between his home and his new minimalist handbag collection, PB 0110. Both town and tote are quiet and well organized; emphasis is on timelessness rather than trend. "I think if I lived in Berlin or Paris, it would be different," Bree says of his work. The sleek, orderly designs aren't without surprises: the navy laptop-friendly tote, for example, has a clever adjustable strap. The midsize cross-body for women has been updated in olive green. From \$606; pb0110.de.



SET SAIL

This month, Norwegian Cruise Line's largest ship. the 4,200-passenger Escape, begins seven-day sailings from Miami, calling in the Bahamas, the BVI, and the USVI, On board, there's a Cubaninfluenced restaurant from Jose Garces (his first at sea); the colorful Tobacco Road bar, a version of the shuttered Miami icon: and an Aqua Park, with two pools and four multistory slides. From \$719 per person; ncl.com. - JACQUELINE GIFFORD



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MY FABULOUS WORLD

Tommy Hilfiger

The fashion designer and budding hotelier may be the embodiment of American style, but his outlook is entirely global.

UNIFORM

When I travel, my (1) navy blazer is my briefcase. I put everything in the pockets: my passport, wallet, cell phone, chargers, and business cards. Laet custom suits made at Eredi Chiarini, in Florence (eredichiarini.it).

CARRY-ON

My memoir, American **Dreamer** (Random House), comes out next March. Every time I flew, I would take a hundred pages or so with me to edit on the plane. It occupied a lot of time; I definitely didn't sleep as much as I should have!

ART FIX

I moved to New York in the ways been attracted to his work. I have a deep under-I was very entrenched in

COMFORT FOOD

Whenever I'm in L.A.. I love to eat at Madeo Ristorante (310-859-4903; entrées \$30-\$45), which is a great old-school Italian eatery. There's nothing better than pizza and pasta—real carb-heavy dishes-but I also like grilled branzino with a fresh salad.

DREAM TRIP

Last year I traveled to New Delhi, where we marked a decade of the Tommy Hilfiger brand's presence in India with a big event at the (3) Leela Palace (theleela.com; doubles from \$375). Everything in that country is so inspiring-the people, the food, the smells, the colors. I want to return to Jaipur and Bangalore.

CHECK-IN

When the opportunity arose to buy the (4) Raleigh hotel (raleigh hotel.com; doubles from \$350) in Miami Beach, I jumped at it. The property is landmarked, so it still has this incredible charm. We plan to renovate and bring it back to its original state, which was so fantastic and unique.

THE SHOW GOES ON

To celebrate our 30th anniversary and our largest store opening in China, we re-created the (5) Fall 2015 runway show from New York Fashion Week in Beijing. It took place in a full-size mocked-up stadium, complete with Astroturf, a scoreboard, and a Jumbotron. I think for an American designer to put on a spectacle like that really struck a chord with the Chinese. It was pure entertainment.

- As told to Katie James





MEXICO CITY

Get a taste of sophisticated Mexico City with this sample **three-day itinerary** that highlights the best of its bustling arts scene, lively culinary traditions, and rich history.





DAY ONE History + Tradition

Begin your Mexico City exploration in the Centro Histórico (Historic Center). Stroll around the Zócalo, or main plaza, to soak up the atmosphere, then visit nearby sites like the Metropolitan Cathedral or the Palacio Nacional, where you can admire murals by Diego Rivera.

This historic area was also once the site of the Templo Mayor, one of the most important political, economic, and cultural centers in what was then the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán. Don't miss the Museo del Templo Mayor, which holds a model of Tenochtitlán and artifacts from the site.

Finally, stroll past the opulent historic buildings toward the Palacio de Bellas Artes, a stunning performance hall filled with art by names like Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Sigueiros.

DAYTWO Design + Culture

Spend your second day in the upscale Polanco neighborhood, beginning with a walk through the sprawling green expanse of Chapultepec Park (also called Chapultepec Forest). One of the largest city parks in the Western Hemisphere is home to a zoo, the Rufino Tamayo Museum, and Chapultepec Castle, a colonial-era palace that once housed Mexico's heads of state. In Polanco, you'll also find museums (like the Soumaya), sidewalk cafés, gourmet dining, and nightlife—plus some of the best shopping in the city along recently renovated Masaryk Street.

Another cultural must: the Museo Nacional de Antropología (National Anthropology Museum), which contains the world's largest collection of early Mesoamerican artifacts.

Nearby, the hip neighborhoods of Roma and Condesa feature beautifully restored Art Deco buildings, tranquil parks and plazas, and a lively gallery scene. Stop by the weekend craft market along Roma's Álvaro Obregón Avenue, or the new Mercado Roma, a gourmet market showcasing artisanal products and top-notch gastronomy.

DAY THREE Elegance + Art

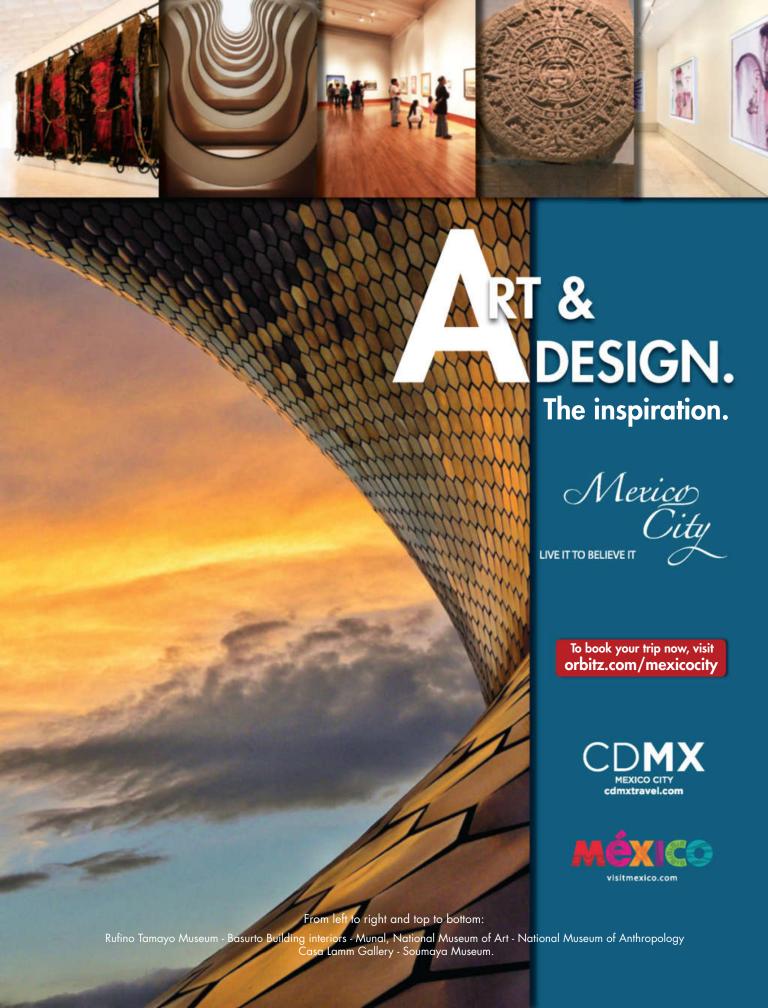
Venture slightly outside the city center with a tour of cobblestoned San Angel, home to colonial-era mansions, fountain-filled squares, and several museums, including the Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Studio Museum. Save time to check out the neighborhood's craft and clothing stores, excellent cantinas, and charming outdoor cafés.

Finally, head to the beautiful Coyoacan neighborhood to see Casa Azul, Frida Kahlo's home. After your visit, explore the surrounding tree-lined streets which lead to 17th-century churches, eclectic museums, and fine art markets celebrating the best of Mexico's past—and the beauty of its present.

TO LEARN MORE AND BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS TO MEXICO CITY, VISIT ORBITZ.COM/MEXICOCITY OR CALL AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL AT 1-844-712-4291.



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HEAD-TO-HEAD

Export Quality

THESE AMERICAN RESTAURANTS HAVE ALL EXPANDED RECENTLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OUTPOSTS— BUT THEY DIDN'T JUST DO THE SAME OLD THING. HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING.



CATCH | DUBAI

The Move The Manhattan seafood hot spot has opened in the Fairmont hotel in Dubai. The Translation It's about half the size of the three-story original, but graffiti-covered brick walls and industrial fans convey a distinctly American vibe. The Draw Only-in-Dubai dishes include the Land & Sea sushi roll (made with miso lobster and Wagyu beef) and the Pearl Necklace cocktail (vodka, passion fruit, and oyster-and-star-anise cordial). emmgrp.com.



MOTORINO | SINGAPORE

The Move The Clarke Quay party district gets a branch of New York's cult Neapolitan pizza joint—open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. The Translation This is the first Motorino with outdoor seating. Naples's San Gennaro Cathedral inspired the marble floor, and the chairs are from a Belgian flea market. The Draw The Soppressata Piccante pie is made with Italian salumi that's illegal to import to the U.S. motorinopizza.com.



SMITH & WOLLENSKY | LONDON

The Move The steak house chain goes international in the Adelphi building on the edge of Covent Garden. The Translation This is, hands down, the most opulent location to date. The greenand-white color scheme is punched up with Carraramarble bars and plush banquettes. The Draw The irresistible Sunday special: roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, and potatoes cooked in goose fat. smithandwollensky.co.uk.



VOODOO DOUGHNUT | TAIPEI

The Move Portland's outlandish doughnuts are now served in the shadow of the Taipei 101 skyscraper. The Translation It's got the same Peptopink walls and takeout box, but there's more room, with 52 seats under chandeliers. The Draw Doughnuts here are 25 percent smaller (with 25 percent less guilt!). Try the Taipei Cream (Bavarian filling with maple-and-vanilla frosting). voodoodoughnut.com.

—JAY CHESHES

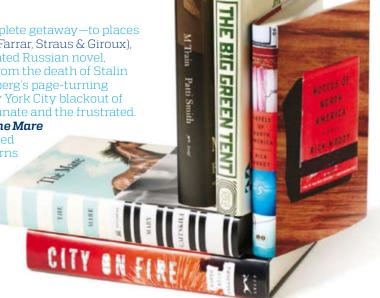
Escape Artists

Fall's most promising new books offer a complete getaway—to places both real and imagined. The Big Green Tent (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), Ludmila Ulitskaya's ambitious, newly translated Russian novel, tracks the lives of three young Muscovites from the death of Stalin to the fall of the Iron Curtain. Garth Risk Hallberg's page-turning mystery **City on Fire** (Knopf) is set in the New York City blackout of 1977, where he examines the lives of the fortunate and the frustrated. Just as riveting is Mary Gaitskill's intimate **The Mare**

(Pantheon), a love story about Velvet, an abused Dominican girl, and the scarred horse she learns to tame. Any traveler will enjoy Rick Moody's bizarre and often hilarious Hotels of North

America (Little, Brown), the fictional "writings" of an eccentric hotel reviewer. And lastly, Patti Smith returns, after the success of Just Kids, with musings on her peripatetic life in a new memoir,

M Train (Knopf). - THESSALY LA FORCE





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RABAT AND SALÉ

ı

LEAVING TANGIER

To step on board a steamer in a Spanish porx, and three hours later to land in a country without a guide-hook, is a semantion to rouse the hunger of the repletest sight-seer.

The sensation is attainable by any one who will take the travible to rue out into the harbour of Algorina and scramble onto a little black best beaded across the straits. Hardly has the rock of Gibraitar turned to cloud when ones foot is on the soil of an almost unknown Africa. Tangier, indeed, is in the guide-books; but, cuckno-like, it has had to lays its eggs in strange nests, and the traveller who wants to find out about it must acquire a work dealing with some other country Spain or Purtugal or Algoria. There is no guide-book to Storneco, and no way of knowing.

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1. New York Stoneware ceramic vase, \$150. 2. The pool at the Mandarin Oriental Marrakech, opening in October. 3. A look from Lanvin's fall collection. 4. Aveda eye color in Golden Ginger, \$15. 5. Lancôme mascara in Mon Regard Parisien, \$32. 6. Valentino leather flats, \$875. 7. Stella McCartney brocade clutch, \$1,955. 8. India (Phaidon), a photo book by Steve McCurry, \$60. SEE BUYER'S GUIDE, PAGE 188.

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/ hereEnow /



LIKE ALL GREAT British stately homes, Cliveden has survived its share of catastrophes: infidelities, fires, lost fortunes, and the reckless schemes of profligate owners. Originally the seat of the second Duke of Buckingham, the estate was bought in the late 1800s by the fantastically wealthy Astor family, and later became the setting of the Profumo Affair—a 1963 sex scandal that brought fame to a pair of "good-time girls" and toppled the serving British government.

When I visited as a boy, in the 1970s, the 376-acre Berkshire estate (a 20-minute drive from Heathrow Airport) had fallen into disrepair and become an overseas

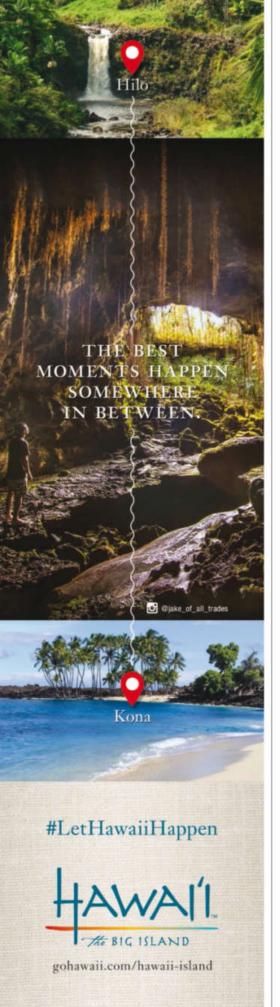
campus for Stanford University. After the undergrads moved on, the house was subjected to a carousel of corporate overlords, until von Essen Hotels ran it aground in 2011.

Today, Cliveden—now owned by billionaire property developers Ian and Richard Livingstone—is nearing the end of an ambitious three-year revival. The brothers have secured a 77-year lease on the property and undertaken a restoration that reflects a love of history as well as a profound inattention to the bottom line. Forced to abide by the strictures of the National Trust (the Astors bequeathed the estate

to the U.K. heritage organization), the Livingstones have deployed an army of artisans and interior designers-and a multimillion-pound budget—to restore the 1851 house and introduce 21st-century comfort to its suites, salons, and boudoirs.

The result is stunning. Lady Astor, in the famous John Singer Sargent portrait, seems to glow with pride from her position above the Great Hall, where everyone from Winston Churchill to Charlie Chaplin once held court. The hall itself is now reappointed in lush red-and-gold velvet and is the setting for afternoon tea. The library rooms, with their dark oak paneling and grand >>





/ here&now /



chandeliers, have been transformed into a spectacular bar and restaurant (led by André Garrett, formerly of London's Galvin at Windows restaurant) with views of the gardens and the Thames beyond.

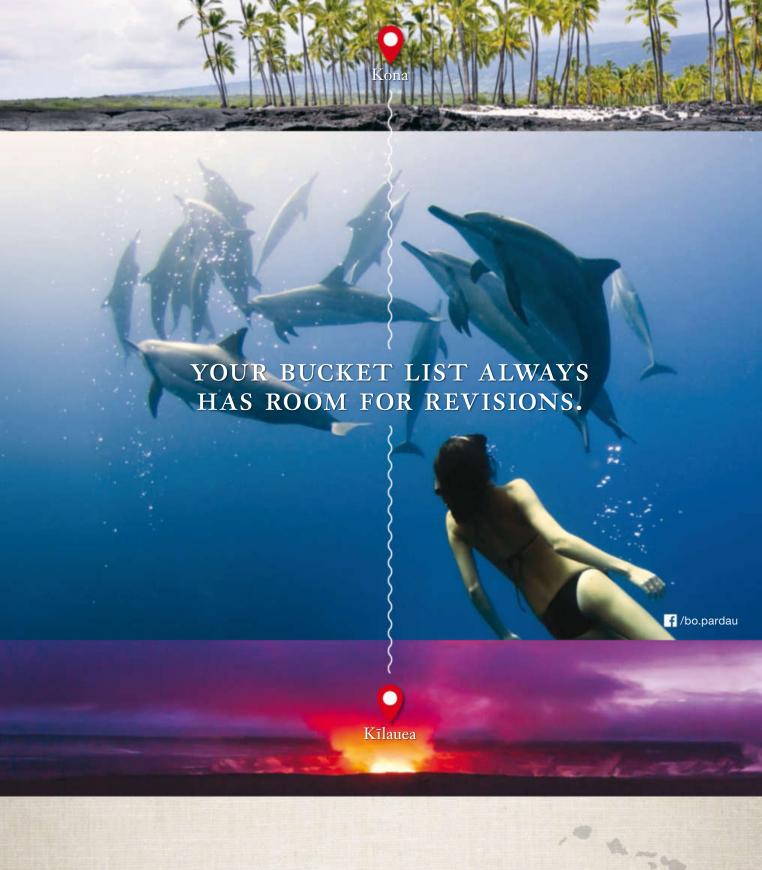
The National Trust has been charged with restoring the extensive gardens. Lord Astor's 1,000-yew maze alone took two years and a quarter of a million pounds to replace. Geoffrey Jellicoe's 51-variety rose garden has been returned to its original glory, and the Italianate gardens are once again bursting with 21,500 bedding plants, as per the original Victorian design.

There are 38 guest rooms (including 15 suites), a club restaurant in the old stables, and an elegant spa with indoor and outdoor pools. You can even sleep in Lady Astor's vast suite—for a mere \$2,400 a night.

Despite the luxurious upgrade, the experience still feels genuine, thanks in large part to a hyper-attentive staff of 154—slightly fewer than Lady Astor had on call, but no longer tethered to the bells that remain on view belowstairs.

All rooms have tablets loaded with information about the hotel and the surrounding area, but (despite requests from

numerous visitors) there are no mini-bars, nor are there TVs in the marble bathrooms. The aim, explains general manager Sue Williams, is to create "the experience of a country house, not a hotel." At the revived Cliveden, she explains, "we want people who enjoy the sense of history." The mansion's 324 windows may all have been restored, but whenever a workman asked what to do with a rattling doorknob or creaky door, Williams would reply: "Leave it!" clivedenhouse.co.uk; doubles from \$694.



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Idyllically located on Jamaica's famed Ocho Rios Bay, Moon Palace Jamaica Grande is Palace Resorts' newest property. Boasting 17 oceanfront acres, this lavish new resort has undergone a multi-million dollar enhancement project, resulting in a stunning, all-inclusive resort experience that will take your breath away. Cool off at one of five fabulous swimming pools. Relax at the 35,000-square-foot wellness sanctuary and Awe Spa. Test the surf on the FlowRider Double® wave simulator. And savor world-class cuisine and top-shelf drinks at five dining destinations and six bars and lounges. Families will love the expansive Wired Teen Lounge and unrivaled kid's club dubbed "The Playroom."

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10 WM. FARMER & SONS BOARDING & BARROOM After a gut renovation, owners Kristan Keck and Kirby Farmer transformed this 11-room guesthouse into a rustic-modern hideaway, with sliding farmhouse doors and amenities from a local apothecary in every room. The latest additions: a cozy American restaurant (with clever cocktails by New York City bartender Sasha Petraske) and a coffee shop, Mercantile. wmfarmerandsons.com; doubles from \$149.

2 TALBOTT & ARDING CHEESE & PROVISIONS This gourmet pantry and takeaway counter is a collaboration between a former Chez Panisse chef and two cheese experts from the Bay Area and Boston. Line up early for breakfast (try the sausage rolls and galettes filled with onion, herbs, and cheese) or grab picnic-friendly fare like a salmon-rillettes sandwich. talbottandarding.com.

3 HUDSON MILLINER GUESTHOUSE & INN If you're looking for a room to fit a brood, book one of the four suites with kitchens at this quirky and comfortable inn. The onetime hat shop has been stylishly converted, with restored midcentury appliances (including a bright yellow 1950s Philco fridge) and claw-foot tubs. thehudsonmilliner.com; suites from \$220.

4 SPOTTY DOG BOOKS & ALE At this firehouse turned bookstore and bar, a longtime favorite, you can sip local cider or French press coffee, graze on charcuterie and herb-dusted almonds, and browse everything from books to art supplies. the spottydog.com.

6 HUDSON FOOD STUDIO A wood-and-white aesthetic and a low-key vibe set the stage for pillow-soft pork bao, Vietnamese chicken-and-mint salad, and house-made applecoriander sodas—all using ingredients from nearby farms. hudsonfoodstudio.com; entrées \$15-\$26.

Wm. Farner N. FRONT 57 N N IT FISH& GAME 5. 3RD ST. The Hudson Milliner The Spotty De 6 FLOWERKRAUT At Mairead Rhona Travins's light-filled floral boutique, local peonies, tulips, and dahlias sit side by side

HUPSON RIVER

with sauerkraut (like a tangy Red Apple Raw blend) made by her husband, Seth Benjamin Travins, who goes by Sauerkraut Seth. flowerkrauthudson.com. - TIFFANY J. DAVIS

IT'S LIKE A CRUISE SHIP IN THE SKY: the next ultra-high-end way to travel across multiple countries is in a private jet. Four Seasons is linking its best hotels

TRENDING: HOPPING

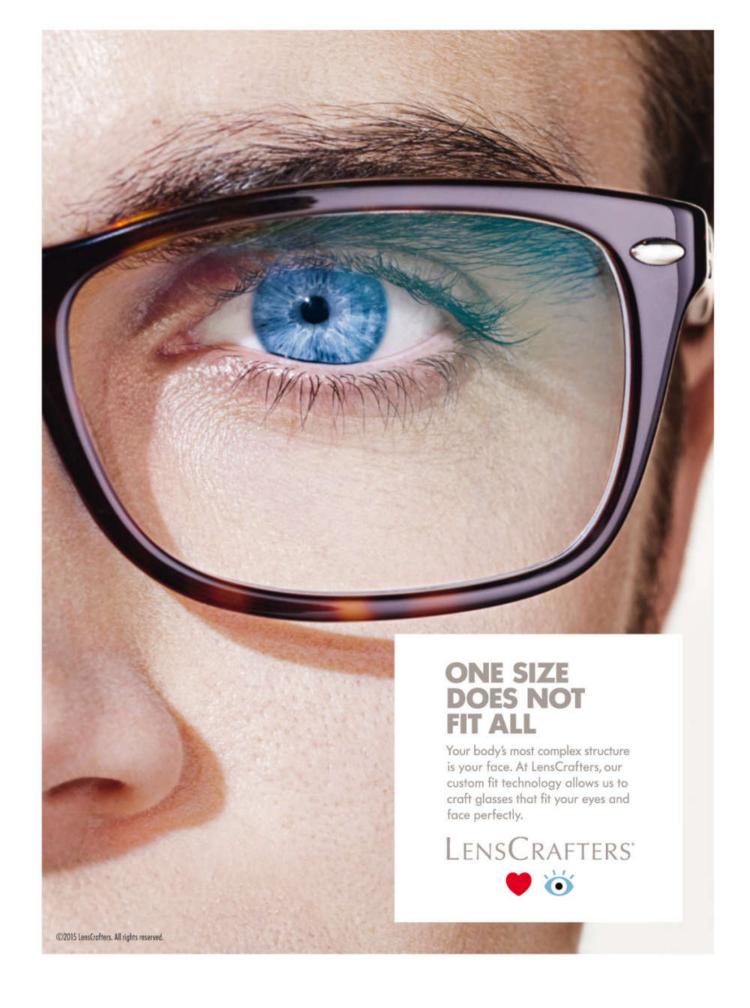
via 757 on trips like January's eight-nation "Timeless Discoveries" (fourseasons.com/jet; \$132,000 per person), which, in one L.A.-to-London itinerary, combines white-water rafting in Bali with flying in to Agra to marvel at the Taj Mahal. Remote Lands has two eight-seat Gulfstreams hopscotching Asia with stays at Aman resorts; the March departure (remote lands.com; \$58,888 per person) offers lessons from a sword fighter in Tokyo and lunch with a Cambodian princess at her dance academy. And next September, Abercrombie & Kent's tricked-out 757 will take 50 guests from the streets of Cuba to the stone statues on Easter Island to estancias in Patagonia (abercrombiekent.com; \$99,500 per person). – ANDREW SESSA





THE MOMENT | HUBERTUS HUNT | SOMEREN, NETHERLANDS

Local riding clubs throughout Europe ritually celebrate hunting season with the annual Hubertus Hunt, a race typically held on the first weekend of November. Today, no real hunt occurs; instead, a horseback procession follows dogs trailing a mock scent—or a foxtail pinned to a lead rider—on a winding chase through idyllic countryside, past hills and meadows, over fences and hedges, and through ponds and woodlands. Here, on a brisk morning in a field in the southern Netherlands, minutes before the ceremonial fanfare, the anticipation is tangible. The buzz of spectators hangs in the air as three dozen hounds hover at horses' hooves. Riders shift in their saddles, distinctly dressed in traditional crimson jackets, stark-white breeches, and just-shined boots, with all the pomp and circumstance worthy of a former sport of kings. — LINDSEY OLANDER



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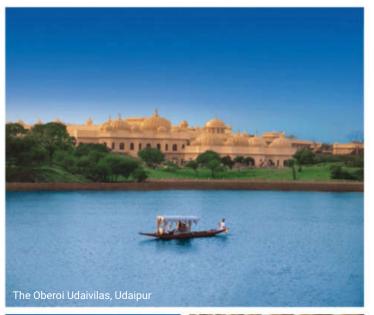
A Royal Stay

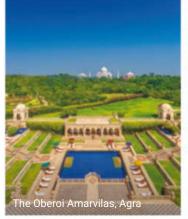
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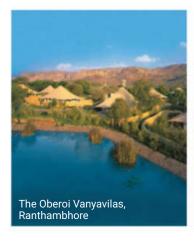






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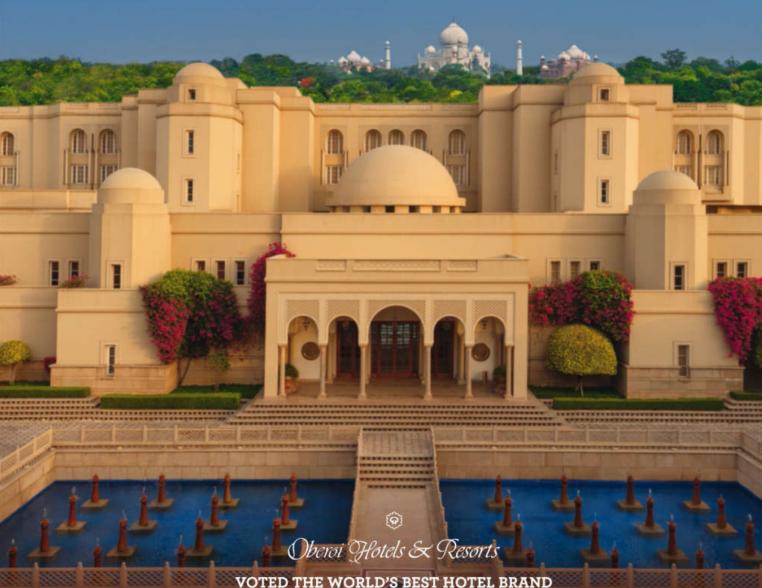
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THE DISH

A Balanced Meal

After years of rustic bistros, chef David Toutain is bringing fine dining back to Paris—with a twist.



sauces and elaborate plating, and make it a sophisticated but not stuffy experience. And no one nails it quite like David Toutain, whose namesake restaurant in the Seventh Arrondissement serves just two menus: nine courses for \$80 and 15 for \$116. If you're lucky, you'll be welcomed by the brilliant Canadian sommelier Linda Violago. Instead of the wine pairings, order whatever bottles she suggests to go with the night's meal.

The food changes daily, though most of it is ambitious and a bit strange: little balls of beef carpaccio with raspberries hidden inside; beets whittled into something resembling a film canister, then stuffed with more beets for a double dose of earthiness; hunks of eel with apple confetti in a pool of blacksesame sauce.

All of it is formalist in execution, undeniably French, and mostly served on unglazed plates that would've made Escoffier cringe. That's kind of the point: fine dining need not be a religious experience, and Toutain gets that. At one point, just before the meat course, you even get to pick your own steak knife. (Too bad you can't keep it.)

The room is equally informal, alive with laughing locals, and decorated like a Stockholm Airbnb, with blond-wood tables and exposed bulbs dangling from cords. Dessert, too, is on the playful side. The night I dined, fresh strawberries arrived looking like the Sydney Opera House, propped up by little spheres of ice cream. Then came rich truffles served buried in the chef's chocolate version of dirt. Dirt! That last bit of kitchen science is something many nouvelle gastronomie chefs have been riffing on for a few years now. Toutain's success lies in taking something familiar, classic even, and simply doing it better. davidtoutain.com.-KURT SOLLER

> FROM LEFT: Toutain's wood-accented dining room; the chef, who is originally from Normandy.

COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD SCENE

in Paris is like saying your private plane doesn't have enough seats. But if you've been to Brooklyn, or Portland, Oregon, or Chicago-or anywhere, really-and visited restaurants that are casually rustic, locally driven, and generally modern in feel, then Paris's reigning bistronomie trend can give you a sense of déjà vu. Frenchie and its successors remain popular and great, but it's time for a new era in Parisian dining.

A forward-thinking group of chefs is looking to modernize haute cuisine, with its labor-intensive

GETTING YOUR FIXE

Paris's standout set menus, both simple and splurgy.

RESTAURANT GUY

SAVOY I The smart move is to go at lunch, when the chef offers a \$120 carte of updated classics-raw oysters with seaweed and lemon granita or artichoke-and-blacktruffle soup—in the moody penthouse of the Paris Mint, where it relocated in May. Swank, right down to the red-carpet entrance. guysavoy.com.

CLOVER | The latest from star chef Jean-François Piège—who worked at the Hôtel de Crillon—and his wife, Elodie. The tiny St.-Germain spot serves light plates like guinoa wafers and marinated fresh tomatoes that seem almost Californian in style. clover-paris.com; dinner prix fixe from \$64.

ALAIN DUCASSE AU PLAZA ATHÉNÉE I

The room resembles a Marie Antoinette version of Miami. The cheapest lunch menu costs \$232. And it's mostly vegetables. Strictly for those willing to indulge on (truly remarkable) carrots and artichokes. alainducasse-plaza athenee.com.

SPRING | Opened by American chef Daniel Rose, it's now one of Paris's top affordable dining experiences. For \$92, his team serves refined takes on dishes like chicken bouillon and squab with sweetbreads. springparis.fr.

YAM'TCHA | Though the restaurant moved to a larger spot this summer, intriguing Asianinflected dishes such as red-tea mousse still make its \$66 lunch one of the toughest reservations to score in the world. yamtcha.com.



DREAM ESCAPES

MEXICO'S RIVIERA MAYA

Located along 81 miles of breathtaking Caribbean coastline, Mexico's Riviera Maya is home to some of the most dreamy travel experiences in the world. Read on to discover some of the unique activities, ultra-luxe spas, and five-diamond accommodations that make this destination so irresistible.



A MAGICAL SECRET

Designated one of Mexico® most distinct natural reserves, **Rio Secreto** is a stunning underground river with myriad unique geological formations of incomparable natural beauty. With the new "Rio Secreto Plus" experience, you can journey deep underground to see these formations then follow trails that transport you to "Xibalba" (the mythical Mayan underworld). Finally, you'll reach the "Room of Peace" where a sound and light show highlights this totally natural setting. Save time for a float in the fresh, crystal clear waters.

SPA DELIGHTS

Given the Mayans' rich wellness traditions, spas are a key part of the modern Riviera Maya experience. Head to the AAA-Five-Diamond **Grand Velas Riviera Maya** to discover their signature spa concept that pays homage to the ancient curative traditions of Mexico and other parts of the world. For mini-retreat packages, try the **SOHO PLAYA Hotel**. A partnership with Playa del Carmen's Yoga By the Sea school has created unique hotel packages that include custom yoga sessions, meditation, guided beach walks, massage, and more.



HOTEL HOT SPOTS

Discover the region's many unforgettable hotels. On the lovely Bay of Xpu-Ha (a natural sea turtle haven), **Hotel Esencia** is a majestic, 50-acre tropical estate set at the midpoint between Tulum and Playa del Carmen. Built as the private hideaway of an Italian duchess, the romantic property is now a hotel with 29 suites and villas. Elsewhere in the region, new luxury choices include the 314-room, elegantly contemporary **Grand Hyatt Playa del Carmen Resort**, opened

this summer, and **The Hacienda Cob?**, a colonial-influenced spot set among the lush vegetation of the Mayan jungle, just a short drive from the Cobá archaeological zone.



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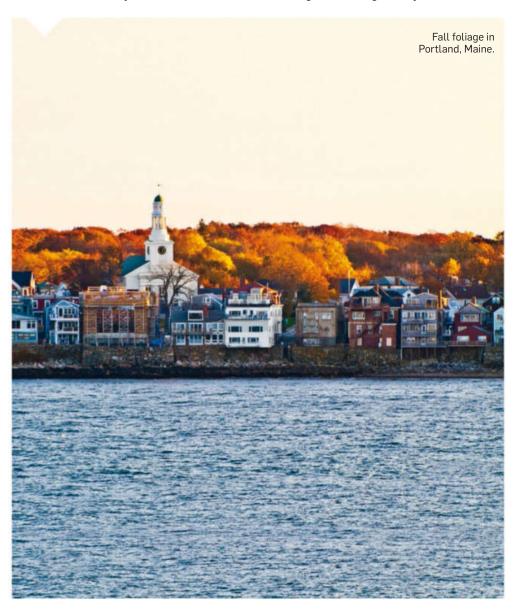
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T+L DEALS

Golden Opportunities Add a little color to your fall travels with these foliage-themed getaways.





SUPER SAVER

Red Mountain Resort, Utah

Zion National Park is a study in amber this time of year. Hike through its cottonwood trees before returning to a luxurious desert retreat for a restorative massage. The Deal Four nights in a Deluxe room, from \$1,480 for two, including meals; book by November 30. Save 38%. redmountainresort.com.

NEW YORK

THE ROUNDHOUSE

This former textile factory in the Hudson Valley—now a Midcentury Modern-inspired hotel—sends guests on private tasting tours to a local winery and maple-syrupproducing sugarhouse. The Deal Two nights in a Mill Deluxe room, \$460 for two; book by November 30. Save 30%. roundhousebeacon.com.

MAINE

CAPE ARUNDEL INN & RESORT

Do your leaf-peeping via bike, then unwind with a cocktailmaking demonstration and a seafood-centric dinner at one of Kennebunkport's prettiest inns. The Deal Two nights in a Cape Classic Garden room, \$639 for two, October 1-November 30. Save 36%. capearundelinn.com.

THE DANFORTH

Guests at this stately Portland mansion join in a Southeast Asian-themed cooking class with the city's chef of the moment, Lawrence Klang. The Deal Two nights in a king room, \$857 for two; book by November 30. Save 30%. danforthinn.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

JARED COFFIN HOUSE

A centuries-old Nantucket building has been modernized with a library bar and amenities like picnic service. One perk of this package: two tickets to the nearby Whaling Museum. The Deal Two nights in a queen room, \$250 for two; book by November 30. Save 37%. iaredcoffinhouse.com.

NAPA VALLEY

VINEYARD COUNTRY INN

Stay at this 21-room B&B in St. Helena, with its exposed-beam ceilings, four-poster beds, and on-site vineyard, and you'll get to learn about wine-and-cheese pairings from a sommelier at the nearby Culinary Institute of America. **The Deal** Two nights in a king or queen room, \$767 for two, through March 31. Save 31% or more. vineyard countryinn.com.

- LISA CHENG



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VIEW FROM THE TOP

FOR CHRIS WEIDNER, CLIMBING IS NOT JUST A PASSION, IT'S A WAY OF LIFE.

SUMMER CAMP, the San Juan Islands, Washington, 1988. A group of 14-year-old boys sets out on a 5-day journey to climb Mount Baker. It's cold, it rains, there isn't enough food, and they never reach the top. But for one boy, Chris Weidner, the sight of the sun rising over the glacier at dawn on the day of their summit attempt changes his life forever.

Twenty-seven years later, Chris points to that first trip as the beginning of a lifelong love affair with climbing. In the years since, his passion for the sport has led him to remote mountains around the world, brought him face to face with moments of sheer exhilaration and utter defeat, and pushed him to share his passion with others as both a professional guide and columnist.

"I climb for many reasons," he says. "I love the tactile sensation of different types of rock, sometimes warm and welcoming, other times cold and unforgiving. I enjoy the puzzle of deciphering out the most efficient sequence of moves up a route. I'm drawn toward climbing because of the unique mental challenges it poses, along with the physical."

Chris also describes climbing as a "wormhole

"WHEN IT COMES TO GEAR, FOR ME, THERE ARE TWO ESSENTIALS: A HEADLAMP AND A GORE-TEX" SHELL."

- Chris Weidner

to raw emotions." He explains, "In everyday life we train ourselves to mask emotions, to bury them. In climbing, emotions like fear, love, terror, and euphoria cannot be ignored. We must acknowledge how we truly feel, be absolutely honest with ourselves, and proceed to make good decisions, despite ourselves."

When asked about some of his more memorable climbs, Chris describes a recent ascent up a famously difficult boulder in Yosemite, called Midnight Lightning. He had attempted it several times in the past and wasn't sure he would ever be able to make it to the summit. When he finally stood on the boulder last fall, taking in the view from the top, he remembers thinking "No matter what, no one can take this away from me."



CLIMBING 101: CHRIS'S TOP TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME CLIMBERS

- 1. Your legs are much stronger than your arms. Relax your grip as much as possible and let your legs do the work.
- 2. Learn to trust your partner and the gear when you're close to the ground, not when you're 60 feet up.
- 3. Communicate. Stay safe by making sure your partner knows exactly what you're planning to do next.





LONDON | CANCÚN | THE SCENE Pesert Blooms A longtime haven for outlaw artists and L.A. castaways, Joshua Tree has lately been colonized by a new group of refugees who are turning the region into a hipster oasis. By AMANDA FORTINI. PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MCPHERSON CA Truck Heads, a sculpture by Sarah Vanderlip, part of artist Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites, near Joshua Tree National Park.

/ ${f beyond}$ / the scene

ON A SAUNA-HOT AFTERNOON in Yucca Valley, a town 12 miles west of Joshua Tree National Park, Ryan Schneider, a painter from Brooklyn and a recent transplant to the area, was standing in the backyard of his rental house, showing me his work. His colorful, primitivist, abstract paintings (currently on view at Santa Monica's Richard Heller Gallery) were affixed to the wood siding on the back of the house, which had that weathered, faded patina you find everywhere in the desert. In the early mornings







and late afternoons, when the light falls just so, Schneider has been using the spot as a makeshift, open-air studio. Enticed by such easy living, he and his partner, Dana Balicki, a life coach, came to Joshua Tree in February to escape the harsh New York winter and by May had decided to move for good, soon finding a bigger place (and getting married). "I just needed to get out, go to the desert, and plug in to that energy that is so palpable here," said Schneider, who is as warm and friendly as he is bearded and tattooed. "With the quiet and the calm out here," he added, "the imagery that comes out of me is so much more bizarre." As he spoke, I became aware of the loud silence, punctuated only by the sound of distant wind chimes.

Schneider's friend Riki Bryan, marketing director of the barbershop chain Fellow Barber, was visiting from New



York. Bryan, who was wearing a mesh Lakers jersey, Hawaiian short-shorts, a gold watch, and old huarache sandals, told me he makes a point of coming out to the desert whenever he has business in Los Angeles. He last visited for Desert & Denim. an alternative trade show for brands specializing in handmade products-Indigofera denim,

Jack/Knife Outfitters, and Havstad Hat Company, among others—that channel the rustic, homespun sensibility of Joshua Tree. The two-day event, sponsored by the wild-craftedfragrance company Juniper Ridge, featured workshops on natural dyeing, leathermaking, and perfume distillation, and was held at the eco-chic >>

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Outside the Joshua Tree studio of the artist Rvan Schneider: his work space; the artist with several recent paintings; the town of Twentynine Palms.

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Mojave Sands Motel, where much of the woodwork was handbuilt by local artist Bobby Furst. (A second Desert & Denim is planned for February.) "It was like, 'Wait, why do we have to go to Vegas and hang out in a convention center?" Bryan told me. "'Can't we get all the buyers to come to a cool location?"

LIKE BIG SUR, MARFA, AND TAOS,

Joshua Tree has long been an outpost on the vagabond-hipster trail, favored by explorers looking for the wide-open, Wild West feeling of the modern-day frontier. In the 1960s, this desert region 140 miles east of Los Angeles, famous for its gnarled, pleasingly grotesque trees and lunar-like boulders, began luring artists and musicians hoping to escape the urban glare. Country-rock pioneer Gram Parsons notoriously overdosed at the Joshua Tree Inn in 1973. Numerous other musicians of that era, like Keith Richards, Donovan, and Jim Morrison, were also fond of taking the occasional, well, desert trip.

In the late 1980s, Noah Purifoy, the late assemblage artist and a founder of the Watts Towers Arts Center who just had a career retrospective at the Los Angeles



County Museum of Art, moved to the Mojave and built an astonishing 10-acre outdoor museum constructed entirely of junk, including old vacuums, television sets, and computer parts. In 2000, a decade and a half before Schneider decamped from Brooklyn, installation artist Andrea Zittel—the patron saint of the latest wave of desert relocation—left her 200-squarefoot Brooklyn studio and established A-Z West, a 35-acre compound adjacent to the park. It's a kind of utopian art-life experiment, a place where she creates her own clothing, furniture, and food. The High Desert Test Sites, environmental artworks sponsored by Zittel's





nonprofit of the same name, are all over the desert, seemingly as native to the place as its hardy flora and fauna.

With the Internet making it easier than ever to workand post one's work—from anywhere, a new set of creative urban refugees is once again flocking to the town of Joshua Tree (population 7,414) and its neighbors: Pioneertown (350), Yucca Valley (21,132), Twentynine Palms (25,768), and the unincorporated rural community of Wonder Valley-not so much to drop out as to reboot. Some come for inspiration, like L.A.-based fine art photographer Mona Kuhn, whose latest body of images—to be shown in November at Diane Rosenstein Gallery in L.A.—were shot at Acido Dorado, architect Robert Stone's modern, gridlike house >> **CLOCKWISE FROM** TOP LEFT: Susan Burnett outside the Mojave Sands Motel, which she began overseeing two years ago; the reflecting pool at Moiave Sands: Justin Hosford and Kime Buzzelli, owners of the Yucca Valley boutique the End; vintage shoes for sale at the End.

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

On the morning of the big day, guests can primp and prepare together at The Spa. When the time comes to tie the knot, the wedding ceremony could take place in the picturesque Cottonwood Grove with the stunning Palisade Rock formation in the background, or in any one of the ideal settings that Gateway Canyons offers. The bride and groom can even decide to take off in a private "just married" helicopter ride directly after the ceremony. For the reception, perhaps it will be an exquisitely prepared dinner and dancing under the stars at the Palisade Event Center—or the romance of a tented party surrounded by mountain flora at the Cottonwood Terrace. From the floral arrangements to the mouthwatering daily meals included in the guest package, the staff will flawlessly execute every detail. And the celebration can continue with a relaxed wedding brunch so all the guests can bid adieu. From arrival to happily ever after, Gateway Canyons' Buyout Wedding Package makes for an incomparable event that perfectly combines the thrill of romance with the thrill of adventure.





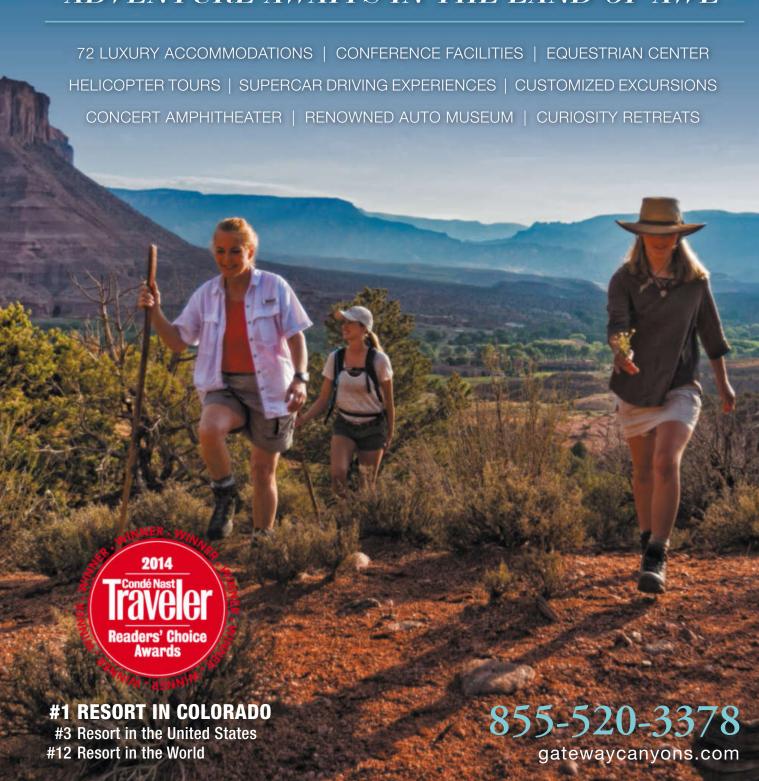








ADVENTURE AWAITS IN THE LAND OF AWE







on the park's edge. But many, like Schneider, come to stay. "Something happened to Joshua Tree," Margo Paolucci, owner of the Joshua Tree Inn, told me. "It's the new bohemia."

Many of these newcomers, whose work casually mingles art and commerce, seek to brand themselves (or their companies) with the imagery of the desert and all that it signifies: freedom, an outlaw disposition, the expansion of consciousness, a willingness to live outside society's rules and expectations. Even if you've never been to the Mojave, you've seen a Joshua tree, and not just on the famous U2 album cover. They've been cropping up in fashion magazines, advertisements, blog posts, and scores of pictures posted on social media. Kate and Laura Mulleavy, the sisters behind the cult fashion label Rodarte, have cited Joshua Tree as an inspiration. Solange Knowles, Beyoncé's it-girl sister, spent New Year's Eve camping in the park, documenting her stay (in a tepee) on Instagram. The online magazine Cult Collective ("a gathering place for architects of authenticity and a new



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Americana offerings at Hoof & the Horn, in Yucca Valley; diners at the barbecue joint and music venue Pappy & Harriet's; the Old West atmosphere of Pioneertown.

generation of bohèmes") recently staged a Joshua Tree road trip turned photo shoot outfitted by the boho-chic brand Free People (you could "shop the looks," of course). In the past year alone, magazines including Vogue, Marie Claire, and xoJane have run articles extolling the romance of Ioshua Tree.

Beyond the landscape's imaginative pull, there are practical reasons to relocate here: the proximity to Los Angeles; the affordable real estate; the recent explosion of Airbnb rentals.

"Artists can build studios, and not have the overhead that is so intense in a city," Terry Taylor-Castillo, a gallerist from Pasadena, California, told me. Along with her husband, the silkscreener Rolo Castillo, Taylor-Castillo opened Joshua Tree's Taylor Junction Gallery in June. The venue recently hosted a pop-up shop showcasing the wares of Neo 80, the iconic, now defunct Los Angeles boutique.

Then there's the desert's awesome grandeur—limitless skies, few people—and the >>

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/ beyond / THE SCENE



ABOVE: An installation at the Noah Purifoy Outdoor Desert Art Museum of Assemblage Sculpture, in Joshua Tree. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: The distinctive trees for which the region is named; Purifoy's 1994 artwork, Bowling Balls III.

psychic advantages that it confers. "This place will crack you open, and artists and musicians are attracted to that," said Susan Burnett, a former L.A.-based stylist who moved to Pioneertown two years ago and now manages the Mojave Sands Motel. Burnett, who was wearing a white linen caftan the day we met, is something of a local celebrity, known and apparently beloved by all. "There's no distraction, not all that city clacketyclack," Burnett told me. "Creative people aren't afraid of that."

ALL OVER THE HIGH DESERT,

these new pilgrims are in evidence. You'll see them near the park's western entrance, eating vegan sandwiches and gluten-free muffins on the patio at the Natural Sisters Café—I spotted one couple wearing matching baseball caps that read BROOKLYN—or browsing the incense-scented

Grateful Desert Herb Shoppe for proprietor Jenny Q's handcrafted herbal products. You might see them at Crossroads Café, a local favorite that feels as dark and cool as a movie theater on a blazing-hot summer afternoon. During one meal I spent at the lunch counter, eating huevos rancheros and surprisingly delicious corn bread, I found myself flanked by the lifestyle photographer Brian Leatart and a sunburned climbing guide who was busy hand-rolling a cigarette. You might also bump into these recent arrivals at JTAG, Art Queen, or Gallery 62. There are more art spaces in Joshua Tree than stoplights.

In nearby Yucca Valley, a couple of boutiques perfectly channel the desert's retro aesthetic. One is Hoof & the Horn, a funky Western-Americana shop for men and women owned by Jen Michael and Adam Yuratovac, a thirtysomething





married couple who moved to the area from Akron, Ohio, in 2012. Here you can outfit yourself like a proper 70s-era rocker, in leather, fringe, concert tees, cowboy boots, moccasins, or turquoise-and-silver jewelry. The other is the End, which is exquisitely curated by Kime Buzzelli, a costume designer who worked on 90210. A magical mix of vintage frocks, shoes, jewelry, scarves, art, pillows, ceramics, and potted plants, the End is like the apartment of the coolest chick you will ever meet. "I have to stock up on desert treasures while I'm here!" chirped a young woman who had driven in from L.A. for the day, the

fringe on her black suede bag swinging as she shopped.

At night, the place to be is Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace, a legendary honky-tonk bar open since 1982, where cowboys, bikers, and tourists mix with hipsters dressed as cowboys, bikers, and tourists. Located in Pioneertown-an Old West motion-picture set built in the 1940s by Hollywood bigwigs like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers—Pappy & Harriet's is known for its mesquite barbecue, its rowdiness, and its intimate music shows: everyone from Robert Plant to the Pixies has played here. The night I visited, a group of local musicians who call themselves the Hot Fudge Sunday Band were performing. "That woman does a great Victoria Williams impression," my companion said, as a woman sang "Crazy Mary" in a high vibrato. Turns out it was Victoria Williams. She's lived in Joshua Tree since 1995. The band began a tribute to Gram Parsons, and the crowd swayed and twirled to the music. You could feel the anarchic spirit of the old Joshua Tree harmonizing with the inventive energy of the new.

THE DETAILS Hotels, cafés, art venues, and more, page 186





SECRETSOF 3 CITIES

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There's nothing like a world-class city to stir a sense of wanderlust and adventure. Join Hyundai for a unique spin through New York, Mexico City, and Istanbul—and see the bigger picture as you take in local neighborhoods where the secrets of each city live. Fit for every adventure, Hyundai is your ultimate travel companion, wherever the journey takes you.



NEW YORK

Legendary sights. High-energy experiences. Dive into them all with a fresh perspective, and start to unearth what this seductive city is all about.

Nonstop NYC

For a perfect start, while away the morning hours in an Art Deco café, or see the city stretch awake in one of its famous parks. A bigger vision of New York City will come into focus—especially when you expand your journey to take in some of its fascinating boroughs.

Manhattan

The mere mention of its name conjures up excitement and fascination. Stroll through Central Park, the city's green heart, or window shop on Madison Avenue. Head to Midtown to gaze at Jackson Pollocks in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), and swing by the East Village to wolf down a mouthwateringly good pastrami sandwich at Katz's Delicatessen. If money's no object, feast at Harry's Café and Steak-long a favorite of the Wall Street elite for its dry-age porterhouse, jumbo Maine lobster, and Kobe burgers. Take it all in atop One World Observatory, granting visitors the best views of NYC's iconic skyline.



The Bronx

Explore this borough's hip-hop roots and Yankee baseball spirit. Catch a flick on the roof of the Bronx Terminal Market, wander the charming gardens at Wave Hill, or pop into Dominick's on Arthur Avenue for some of the area's best Italian fare—the veal parmesan and chicken scarpariello are unforgettable.

Brooklyn

Walk over the famed Brooklyn Bridge—then comb around Brooklyn Flea for vintage finds, take in a free concert in Prospect Park, or let the salt air and funnel cakes spoil your senses on Coney Island. For a caffeine kick, go to Stumptown Coffee Roaster; locals will attest it's the best place for those bitten by the bean.



p Back and See More of New York

Queens

In this culturally diverse borough, take a walk 'n' taste tour to sample Italian, Brazilian, Middle Eastern, and Greek cuisine. Head to Socrates Sculpture Park to marvel at its creativity, or take your seat for a performance at Queens Theatre—sipping a glass of wine before your show in the Rotunda Lobby, a beautiful glass-walled room that overlooks the park.



continued >



MEXICO CITY

Discover an endless, beguiling landscape that beckons to be explored. Hone in on key neighborhoods to get the best feel for this sophisticated metropolis.



High-Octane Hub

A 571-square-mile labyrinth of Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture, experimental art, and mouthwatering cuisine, Mexico City is one of the world's largest and best-loved urban hubs. To get a feel for its heart and soul, climb pre-Hispanic pyramids, capture images of colonial buildings, and dine at unique and authentic avant-garde restaurants.

Take to the bustling streets with Hyundai, and enjoy free Wi-Fi on Mexico City's buses.

Santa Fe

Just five miles west of the city center lies Mexico City's newest and most modern neighborhood—a favorite of young professionals enticed by its bustling restaurant, nightlife, and culture scene. Surrounded by picturesque desert landscape, the stunning Santa Fe Opera House has been hosting premier performances since 1957; epitomizing southwestern flair, the open-air design is sure to ignite the senses.

San Angel

Once a retreat for Spanish nobles, this beautiful neighborhood of cobblestone streets and colonial-era housing is full of artistic and antique treasures. Stroll around Casa del Risco, a Baroque fountain made of broken porcelain fragments, or Iglesia San Jacinto, a 16th-century church. Troll for treasures at the colorful San Angel Saturday Bazaar and Art Fair, showcasing some of the best artwork in the country. Negotiate with the artists themselves for the best keepsake.

Polanco

In posh Polanco, shop at the luxurious boutiques along Avenida Presidente Masaryk, the area's answer to Rodeo Drive; wine and dine at world-class eateries; and rest up at some of the city's best hotels along Campos Eliseos. Don't miss the pride of Mexico City: Auditorio Nacional, one of the world's best venues for concerts, art, theater, and dance performances. The auditorium even hosted gymnastic events at the 1968 Summer Olympics.

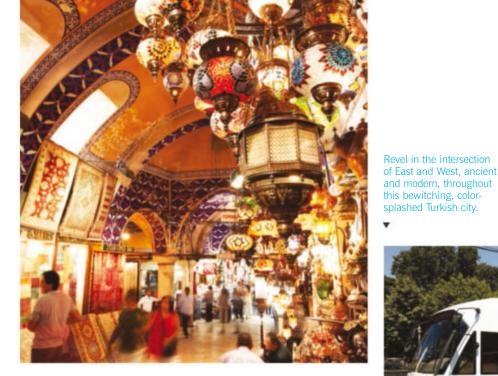


Roma & Condesa

Point your compass south to these two bohemian enclaves to sample the city's hippest cafés, art galleries, nightclubs, bars, and restaurants. The creative collective revived these once-bourgeois neighborhoods of Art Nouveau mansions—but people don't come for the sights as much as they do for the food and drinks. Slide into La Boguedita de Medio, a cozy Cuban restaurant renowned for its ceviche and strawberry mojitos. For authentic, "chic Mexican" fare, El Parnita on Avenida Yucatán is wildly popular among locals.



Step Back and See More of Island





Once the capital of three empires—Byzantium, Constantinople, and Ottoman—Istanbul is now Turkey's thriving cultural and financial hub. To unravel what the city is all about, steer yourself through three of its quintessential neighborhoods.

A Magical Metropolis

Istanbul's skyline beams with skyscrapers, but beneath its shimmering veneer are palaces, mosques, and minarets-relics that harken back to an ancient world. A stroll through its streets will delight visitors with faded Byzantine frescoes, kebabs, and tulip-shaped tea glasses.

Old City

A main attraction of the postcardpretty Old City, the Grand Bazaar in Beyazit houses just about everything under the stars. Comprising 61 covered streets and more than 3,000 vendors, this 15th-century traditional destination showcases rugs, silks, wood-block prints, and trinkets that have caught the attention of the fashion elite. Wind your way through the wholesale district and grab a commuter ferry to take in the illuminated



Beyoglu

Dubbed as the city's creative, Western-minded dining and entertainment quarter, Beyoglu is an eclectic patchwork of sub-quarters. Peruse through Serdar-I Ekrem street, Beyoglu's shopping corridor, or head to Grande Rue de Pera if it's luxury you're after. The pedestrian avenue and its web of side streets are dotted with trendy cafés, bistros, and restaurants. Go to Balik Pazari, Beyoglu's heralded fish market, for the freshest catch; then sample Istanbul's finest of chocolates in Meshur Beyoglu.



Those after romantic enchantment need look no further. This 19mile strait, split down the middle between Europe and Asia, blesses visitors with waterfront mansions. shoreline palaces, and colorful marinas. Spend a day ducking into the area's artisan workshops, bakeries, and barbershops, and take in an unforgettable sunset. With such an abundance of things to see, and so little time to squeeze it all in, make sure a Bosporus cruise is in the cards. How else can one see all six Ottoman palaces in such jawdropping splendor?





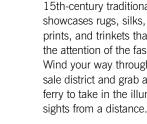
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HOMELAND BY KIMIA FERDOWSI KLINE

The Iranian American painter and curator at Brooklyn's Wythe Hotel on her imaginary garden in Iran: "My family had to leave the country after the revolution, before I was born, because we're members of the Baha'i faith, which is persecuted there to this day. I've traveled my whole life—been to 30 countries—but I can't experience my parents' country firsthand, so painting is my only way of relating to my ghost homeland. This series started with stories of my father's childhood garden, full of fig trees and pomegranate trees. For source material I use family photos, my imagination, and pictures on Instagram by Iranian photographers. The final images are patchworks of memory and storytelling. This girl isn't exactly me, but I liked the pose."

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MS KONINGSDAM

DEBUT AT SEA

Ushering in an exciting era of cruising, **Holland America Line** is thrilled to unveil the first ship of its new Pinnacle class: *ms Koningsdam*. Harnessing the creative power of world-renowned hospitality designer Adam D. Tihany and legendary ship architect Bjørn Storbraaten, *ms Koningsdam* was designed to mirror the fluid curves and light-filled spaces of musical instruments. By fusing together the best of what guests love with engaging new experiences, *ms Koningsdam* offers cruising in perfect harmony.





Advertisement









Opposite page, from top: The highly anticipated *ms Koningsdam*, depicted in an artist rendering; a Spa Verandah stateroom; the Culinary Arts Center.

Clockwise from top left: The Dining Room; Queen's Lounge; the three stages in the new Music Walk.

INTRODUCING MUSIC WALK™

Entertainment has always been the heart of evenings on board Holland America Line, and on *ms Koningsdam* that continues with Music Walk, featuring classics on the Lincoln Center Stage; chart-topping hits in Billboard Onboard; and the best of Memphis soul in the popular B.B. King's Blues Club.

TASTE SENSATIONS

From savory signature dishes to handson cooking classes, *ms Koningsdam* satisfies all the senses with innovative cuisine, award-winning classics, and the freedom to dine As You Wish®.

Spanning two floors and framed by

stunning views of the sea, The Dining Room features stylish interiors and a copper-sheathed wine tower. Showcasing chef-driven artisanal dishes, The Culinary Arts Center presented by *Food & Wine** magazine offers cooking classes by day and transforms into a farm-to-table venue by night.

Yet more options tempt the palate—including Sel de Mer, the intimate new brasserie offering a contemporary twist on French seafood classics, and à la carte dishes ranging from fresh oysters to bouillabaisse. Inspired by blue and white Delftware, the Grand Dutch Cafe is the perfect casual spot to grab a refreshing pint of lager or traditional Dutch

snack. Enjoy more delicious dining at The Pinnacle Grill, Tamarind, Canaletto, Lido Market, and New York Deli & Pizza.

HAVENS OF SERENITY

With elegant style, modern functional details, and spacious, light-filled interiors, each Holland America stateroom is designed to tailor to the individual needs of each traveler. And now, *ms Koningsdam* makes traveling with your family or on your own both comfortable and convenient. Family Ocean-View Staterooms accommodate up to five, including two separate shower facilities, while solo travelers can enjoy luxurious staterooms personalized just for one.

DIVINE DESTINATIONS

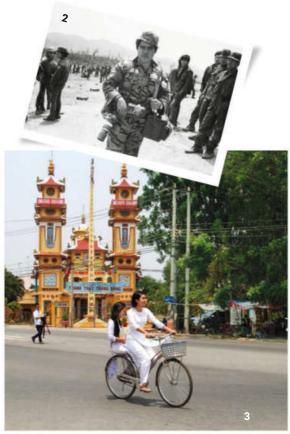
Debuting in April 2016, *ms Koningsdam* will launch with a brilliant inaugural sailing season in Europe. Sail round-trip from Rome to explore the inviting ports of Italy, Spain, Greece, and Turkey. Cruise the Iberian Peninsula between Rome and Amsterdam. Or take in the fjord-laced coasts of Norway and Iceland, or the treasures of the Baltic round-trip from Amsterdam. And beginning in November 2016, explore the idyllic islands of the Caribbean.

Come take your place in history. Contact your travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL-HAL, or visit **hollandamerica.com**.









A Great Return

To mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, native son and prize-winning war photographer Nick Ut traveled to Ho Chi Minh City, his camera at the ready.

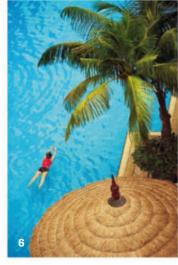
JUST AFTER NOON ON JUNE 8, 1972, a South Vietnamese Skyraider dropped napalm on Trang Bang, a village 25 miles northwest of Saigon. The payload, meant to hit occupying North Vietnamese forces, struck civilians instead, many of whom then rushed down the highway toward 21-year-old Associated Press photographer Nick Ut. His photo of nineyear-old Kim Phuc, naked and screaming as smoke filled the sky, galvanized international opinion against the war. The shot, which almost went unpublished because of the child's nudity, helped Ut become the youngest winner of the Pulitzer Prize for photography at the time.

In 1975, Ut escaped Saigon for a camp in San Diego with only a couple of cameras. "I was a refugee," he says. "At the camp, I always had my camera." He's worked for the AP for decades, and now returns annually to Vietnam. This spring, to celebrate Liberation Day and the release of AP's new book Vietnam: The Real War, Ut visited the former Saigon for the festivities, including a military parade. Ut, who has a historian's breadth of knowledge and as keen a photographic eye as ever, shared these photos of his trip.— SOO YOUN



- 1. MOMENT OF RESPITE At a lush highway rest stop in the Mekong Delta, Ut snapped these restaurant workers before ordering breakfast of hot soup with rice noodles.
- 2. IN THE ZONE After his older brother, AP photojournalist Huynh Thanh My, was killed by the Vietcong in 1965, 16-year-old Ut began showing up daily and developing film at the bureau, until he got his brother's job. "My brother said he was going to take a picture that would stop the war," says Ut,
- pictured here at a combat base in January 1971. "When I took the picture of Kim Phuc, I thought, 'I have it for you.'
- 3. A VILLAGE REBORN Trang Bang 43 years later. The site of the bombing is directly behind the Cao Dai temple, seen here.
- 4. FLOATING WITNESS This crocodile lurks on Con Phung Island in the Mekong Delta, an area Ut covered. During the war, peace activist Ong Dao Dua (or the Coconut Monk) lived nearby. There's now a temple in his honor. >>





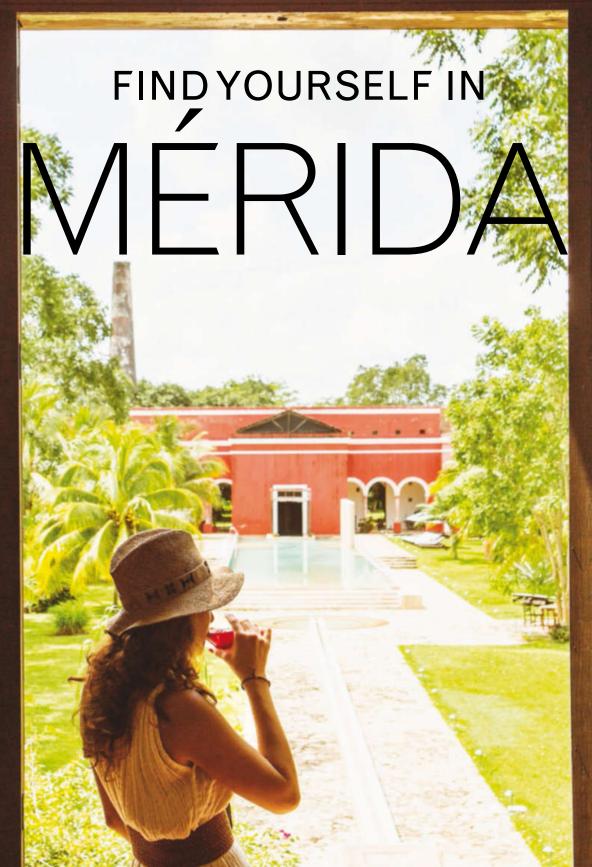






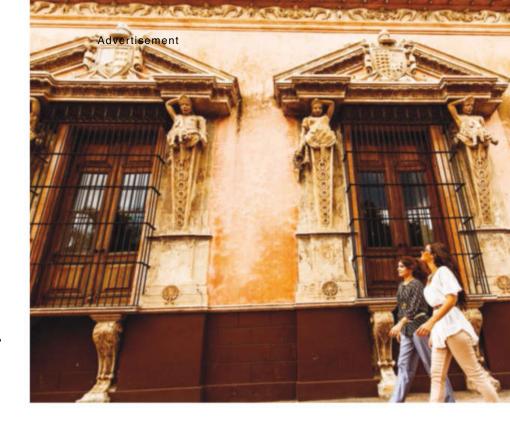
- **5.** ON THE MOVE Like a paparazzo on the prowl, Ut asked his driver to speed up then slow down so that he could capture this family traveling along the highway to Ho Chi Minh City.
- 6. COOL OASIS Ut's room at the Sheraton Saigon, where he sometimes stays on his annual visits, looks out on this swimming pool. During the war, the hotel was an apartment building where Ut's journalist colleagues Tim Page, John Steinbeck IV (son of the novelist), and Sean Flynn (son of Errol), all lived.
- 7. NIGHT VISION Ut captured an aerial view of the anniversary celebration. Even after 40

- years, he's still on the AP clock day and night.
- 8. SIGNS OF LIFE "During the war, there were lots of Vietcong here," Ut says, gazing out on the Mekong. "They were hiding under these plants and bombing American navy boats. That's why American soldiers shot so many Vietcong in this area. John Kerry was right around here."
- 9. FRESH CATCH Ut spotted these red tilapia at a fishmonger in Sa Dec. Though he was in the French-colonial town to visit the famous setting of the 1992 film The Lover, he skipped the official tour to wander through the nearby open-air market.



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The heart of the Mayan Civilization, the state of Yucatán offers plenty of options for modern-day travelers in Mexico—from outdoor thrills, serene beaches, archaeological gems, and lively entertainment to chic cities and a booming wellness industry. Base yourself in capital city Mérida to soak it all in and explore. It won't take long to find your Yucatán—and rediscover yourself.



he capital of the state of Yucatán, Mérida has served as the region's cultural hub since the days of the Spanish conquest. Today, you'll find fine examples of colonial architecture and traditional life in the charming historic center (one of the country's largest outside of Mexico City), along with all the amenities and comforts of a cosmopolitan city. Lovely boutique hotels, relaxing parks, vibrant restaurants and shopping centers, and a full calendar of festivals and events make Mérida an ideal year-round getaway.

For a signature experience, take a stroll along Montejo Avenue, or hop a traditional horse drawn carriage to travel back in time along the cobblestoned streets lined by colorful mansions. In the evening, take in a concert by the Symphonic Orchestra at the Peon Contreras Theatre. Afterwards, grab a seat under the stars at one of

downtown's varied restaurants, bars, and coffee houses, where you can sip a drink, enjoy live music, and soak up the tranquil atmosphere of this Yucatán jewel.

Easily accessible from several U.S. and Mexican gateways, Mérida's relaxed lifestyle, breezy charm, and wealth of attractions has made it popular with both tourists and ex-pats; the latter includes a large second-home community, many of whom retreat here from the United States and Canada in the colder months. Whether visiting for a weekend or a season, you're sure to return home with unforgettable memories of enjoying traditional meals in cozy haciendas, visiting Beaux-Arts marvels, shopping for designer-made wares, and strolling around the historic main plaza.

As evidenced by Mérida's photo-ready charm, the pursuit of beauty was also

important to the ancient Mayans—from the decoration of their cities and the ornamentation of their clothing to their personal well-being. With such a rich history, it's no surprise that the state of Yucatán remains a hub for those seeking health and wellness. Enjoy spa services steeped in Mayan herbal traditions (using indigenous ingredients, like cacao), and ancient practices like swimming in natural cenotes (underground springs) or taking in a *Temazcal* steam ceremony. Thanks to a network of private hospitals, clinics, and laboratories, Mérida has also become a destination for highly specialized medical care, including dental, cosmetic, and plastic surgery procedures. In so many ways, visitors are living their best life in Yucatán. Learn more at yucatanhealthcare.com.

Fly AeroMexico to Mérida nonstop from Miami with four weekly flights, or with a stop in Mexico City from any of its 18 gateway cities in the United States.

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On the Fast Track

A group of imaginative local entrepreneurs has transformed the southeast London neighborhood of Peckham—now even a parking garage is a cool new hangout. By RICHARD GODWIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIEL STIER

> WHEN IT COMES TO WEATHER, Londoners know that low expectations come with their own consolations. When the clouds do clear in this city—on, say, a rose-tinted evening in early autumn—the transformation has the feel of a rehearsed miracle. There are few better places to take in such moments than outside Peckham Rye station, in southeast London. Reggae bass lines boom from parked cars; children chase one another down barbecue-scented alleys; homebound commuters loosen their ties and sniff the air for gin.

> "Excuse me, is there a bus near here in which you can eat a pizza?" an Italian woman asked passersby on Rye Lane on one such golden evening. "Probably!" one of them replied. It turned out the pizza bus had been here a week ago but had now moved to nearby Deptford. Such are the migratory

patterns of street-food concessions in hipper-by-the-minute south London.

I was looking for the Bussey Building, once a cricket-bat factory, now an arts space/club/goodness knows what else. Repurposing is all the rage in Peckham. There's also a multistory parking garage that has served as a venue for opera and a mysterious musical genre known as "Marxist Chillwave." There's a disused railway that's set to be remade as a park in the style of New York's High Line (locals are calling it the Rye Line) and a pool hall that hosts "postdubstep" club nights.

It wasn't so long ago that anywhere south of the Thames (an area to which taxi drivers famously feared to >>

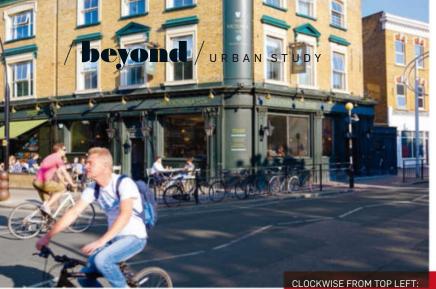


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venture) felt exotic, slightly dangerous, even. Peckham, in particular, was counted among London's most deprived neighborhoods—its name an almost comical byword for grim. In Britain, it's known as the home of Del Boy, the working-class hero of the Margaret Thatcher-era TV comedy Only Fools and Horses. Its housing projects had, in bygone years, a reputation for gang crime. Even now, the pavement of Rye Lane, where piles of plantains and pineapples spill into the path of oncoming buses, can feel bracingly hazardous.

But now that fashionable boroughs in the east of the city, such as Hackney, have taken gentrification to its logical conclusion (i.e., bankers), Peckham is gradually assuming their mantle. Up-and-coming artists, many of them graduates from the nearby Camberwell College of Arts, are

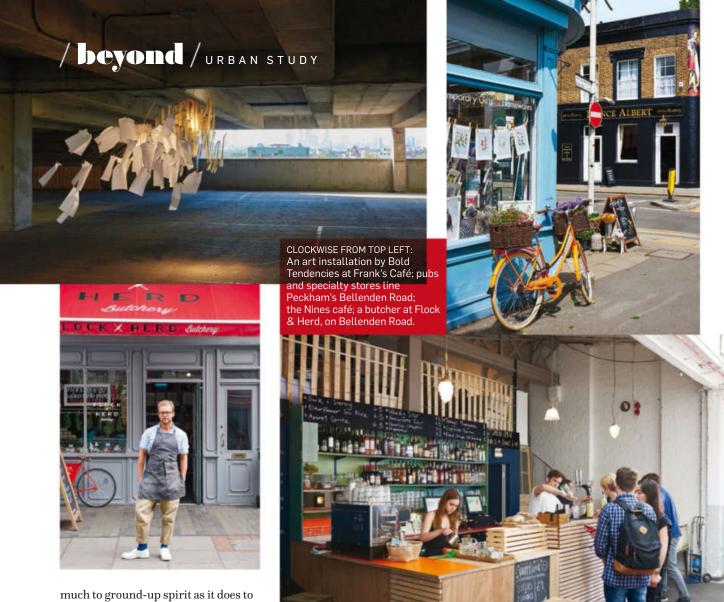
reclaiming the area's industrial spaces, while young families are snapping up its appealing, Victorian-era housing. Now Frank's Café—a panoramic hangout on the roof of the aforementioned parking garage—has queues on summer nights, while Bar Story and Peckham Springs compete for its customers. The food scene counts as one of the city's most vibrant, with small and unusual restaurants opening at a dizzying rate. Even the bollards on leafy Bellenden Road are avantgarde—the work of sculptor Antony Gormley. But while British Vogue may have anointed Peckham as the place to be, it retains a cherishable balance of

productivity and leisure, newcomers and established communities. Even as great districts fall to the developers, it still feels like a Londoner's London.

A key moment in the Peckham revival was Transport for London's extension of the Overground line in 2012. The scheme joined various neglected bits of track into a ring route that runs through east and southeast London's hipster heartlands (Dalston, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, Deptford...). Once tricky to get to, Peckham became accessible to all. Since it's orange on the Tube map, it's affectionately known as the Ginger Line.

The area's renaissance owes as >>





top-down planning. Mickey Smith, 48, a Yorkshire-born DJ of Jamaican ancestry, embodies the movement. When he first opened the CLF (Chronic Love Foundation) Art Café in the Bussey Building in 2007, the old factory was in ruins. Transport for London intended to demolish it to build a tram depot. Smith and the building's owner, Jonathan Wilson, sought to prove its viability by hosting a mixture of art events with nearby Goldsmiths College and club nights on the roof, where Smith himself would blast Isaac Hayes and Donna Summer.

"At first, the building was seen as an eyesore," Smith said. "By the third year, they said it was the most important building in Peckham." He has since hosted collaborations with the Royal Court Theatre and opened the way for a bar to be launched on the roof. The Bussey

itself is now protected as an official community asset; Wilson, meanwhile, is one of the few London landowners who don't seem set on building luxury apartments. "We won't change," Smith declared. "We're independent, so nobody can touch us, really."

Which is just as well, as there is no way you could create something like the Bussey Building from scratch. Winding my way up its staircases, I passed a yoga studio with a doormat that reads NAMASTE BITCHES; a West African shipping company; a Vietnamese street-food café; and a thriving Pentecostal church. My destination was the Rooftop Film Club, where I had decided to take in the 1980s classic Ferris Bueller's Day Off. As the opening credits rolled,

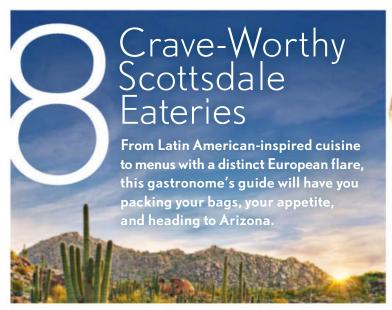
the cinemagoers pulled their blankets up over their deck chairs (it was still England, after all), sipped Rye Tai cocktails, and settled in to watch Matthew Broderick skip school for the umpteenth time.

I took in the view as the sun went down. To the north, the cartoon spires of the financial district pierced the sky: the Shard, the Gherkin, the Cheesegrater, the Walkie-Talkie. For a north Londoner like me, seeing them from this angle made me feel like a sailor gazing at the constellations from a different hemisphere. As Ferris Bueller put it: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." •

THE DETAILS A guide to Peckham's essential restaurants, bars, and more, page 186

The sweetest moment of your day.







one The Mission

Located in historic downtown, The Mission Restaurant and Lounge offers an inspired take on Latin cuisine. Using a vibrant mix of flavors from Spain to Mexico, The Mission boasts fresh seafood prepared on "la plancha," a Spanish-style griddle. *themissionaz.com*



Virtù Honest Craft

This James Beard-nominated gem nestled in the Arts District is a popular gathering place that delivers an always-fresh, ever-changing, Mediterraneaninspired menu. From handmade pastas to premium seasonal produce, Chef Gio Osso never disappoints. virtuscottsdale.com





three FnB Restaurant

The irrefutable front-runner in showcasing the very best of Arizona cuisine, FnB serves up richly flavored food that highlights the area's bounty. With its own Arizona wine program, the restaurant pairs each dish with a local label's finest. *fnbrestaurant.com*



four Sweet Republic

Satisfy your cravings with Sweet Republic's all natural, handcrafted ice cream, famed for its fresh local ingredients and distinct flavors like I Love Bacon and Hop Knot IPA. sweetrepublic.com

five Posh

This intimate eatery specializes in improvisational cuisine. Instead of a menu, you'll



receive a list of fresh, seasonal ingredients. Cross off anything you don't like and Chef Joshua Hebert will create an innovative multi-course meal tailored to your preferences. *poshscottsdale.com*



six Distrito

With a bright new take on regional Mexican cuisine, Chef Jose Garces transforms classic favorites into mouthwatering must-haves. From custom tacos to lump crab and cactus salsa, each bite is a delectable journey. distritorestaurant.com



Known for its perfect blend of California and Mediterranean cuisines, Olive & Ivy boasts an over-sized patio with a sleek yet charming atmosphere. Enjoy signature cocktails and tasty small plates under shady trees. *oliveandivyrestaurant.com*



eight Pig & Pickle

Designed to stay dedicated to the balance of flavors—sweet requires sour, chocolate needs salt—this simple and delicious modern eatery offers a thoughtful menu that includes rustic-style dishes and house-pickled beets. pigandpickle.com



For information on these and other Scottsdale restaurants, call **800.419.3601** or visit **DineInScottsdale.com**.

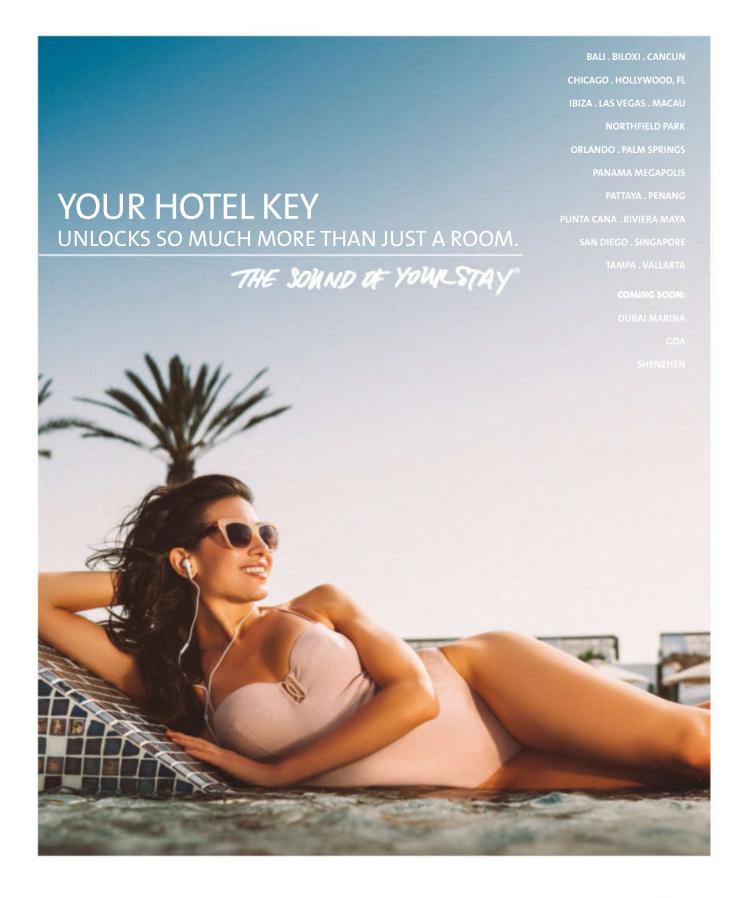








 $\textbf{DROR BENSHETRIT} \mid \textbf{DESIGNER} \mid Istanbul \text{ For buildings like New York's SoHo Synagogue and for products}$ for Tumi, Target, and Alessi, the Israeli-born Benshetrit finds inspiration in symmetry and geometry. Both are in ample supply in Turkey's largest city, where his firm, Studio Dror (studiodror.com), has a major architectural project under way. "The heritage of the Ottoman Empire, mixed with European and Asian influences, makes the city so diverse," he says. The designer picked up these keepsakes from the Grand Bazaar (istanbulgrandbazaar.org) and at shops in Karaköy. — KATIE JAMES





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Pilgrim's Progress

After walking the Camino de Santiago, the ancient spiritual path in northern Spain, Stephanie Danler found answers to questions she didn't know she had. ILLUSTRATION BY TINA BERNING



A GERMAN BOY SLOWED TO WALK BESIDE ME in the sundappled woodlands outside of Burguete, Spain. He introduced himself, asked if I was American, asked if I knew how much my backpack weighed. Then he asked, "Why did vou come on Camino?"

I looked at him like he was insane. Couldn't he see that I was in pain? More important, isn't that a personal question?

It was the second day of what would become 42 days of walking. I had already been asked that question more times than I could count and I was not in the mood. On the first day I had developed blisters. Now they were open wounds and I was limping badly. Later, I would attempt to peel

my socks off, only to find them stuck to my feet by layers of dried blood and pus. Later, I would begin crying as I soaked my feet in a river at Larrasoaña, population 117.

"I just like walking," I told the boy through gritted teeth.

Of course, nobody comes on the Camino de Santiago because they just like walking. The path, which many embark upon in southwestern France, traverses northern Spain and ends

at the relics of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela. It became famous in the 12th century when the crusaders traveled it as they sought to re-Christianize the Iberian Peninsula. When they finished, they were granted absolution of their sins, even the mortal ones. Most modern-day pilgrims come for secular reasons, but an atmosphere of cleansing and forgiveness persists.

Accordingly, the Camino is a place where confessions come as freely as observations about the weather. From the moment I unloaded myself from the little tram in St.-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a French town in the foothills of the Pyrenees, people wanted to tell me why they were there: They had survived cancer. They had just been laid off after 20 years at the company. They had survived their mother's, son's, husband's death. Not everyone

done more research. They expressed concern that I was walking alone. When they left, an American woman sat down and began to speak as if we had known each other for months. She had been walking six weeks, starting more than 300 miles away in Le Puy. She shared her laundry techniques. She asked if I was on an "Eat, Pray, Love," using the phrase as a noun.

"I was a lot like you when I started," she said.

Lasked her what that meant.

"Scared," she said. She leaned toward me. "Listen: whatever you ask the Camino, it will answer. You may not like the answer. But it's there for the taking."

These pilgrims gave off the whiff of the fully converted. They walked in an uninterrupted dream. But I had come for solitude, not group therapy. When

During the next six luminous weeks, I did not find God. I failed to become a peregrina. I did not make lasting friendships. I did not learn humility. Instead of heating cans of lentils in hostel microwaves, I took myself out to dinner. In true turista fashion, I took days off, checked in to hotels, got drunk in the bathtub. I listened to music when I should have been meditating on the tender noises of the countryside. I took photos when I should have been meditating on the magnificent views. I did not think pure thoughts while I walked—I thought obsessively about wrinkles I was developing, about when my next coffee would be, about whether I would ever have sex again.

And to everyone who asked, I continued to assert that I just liked walking. I just wanted to walk.

On the final morning, setting out under the stars at 4:30 a.m., my blisters callused over, my legs knots of muscle, I still had no clarity. No plans on how to rebuild my life. I was haunted by the privilege of my crisis. I was walking already when the sun rose each morning. I ate cherries from trees, watched the soil streak and change in the vineyards. I crested mountains, walked in wildflowers, slept dreamlessly. There were prolonged pockets of peace. I had never been so free. But I still couldn't take my ring off. I couldn't send the letters I had written. I threw them all away.

And yet. When I walked into Santiago de Compostela and stood in the shadow of that gorgeous cathedral, I knew that I had a done a deeply good thing. I have made so many bad decisions in my life, and this was not one of them. The American woman in St.-Jean-Pied-de-Port had been right. I hadn't known my question then but it turned out to be this: Can we heal ourselves? The answer for me was no. There was no forgiveness, just movement, just days unspooling under my feet. In the 12th century the pilgrims would sing, pray, and chant as they walked. Ultreia, ultreia, ultreia, they would call out to one another. It means, simply, onward. •

The Camino is a place where confessions come as freely as observations about the weather.

was in crisis, but for most, life had not followed its prescribed track. Something had been broken, and the Camino would fix it. And no matter how blasé I wanted to appear, the fact that I was walking meant that I believed the Camino could fix me, too.

There are many starting points, but St.-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a hamlet of cobblestoned streets and cream-colored wooden houses pressed up against blackened medieval walls, is one of the most popular. When I arrived, clueless, all the auberges were full. I was lucky to find a cot in the attic of a hunchbacked Basque woman's home. I was the only guest and the Madame hated me. "Turista!" she screamed in Spanish, as if sounding an alarm. She slapped my overstuffed backpack, "No peregrina. Turista, turista!"

She was right. I was no pilgrim. That night I avoided her by hiding in a bar eating free plates of olives. A group of rowdy British men sat next to me. They expressed concern that I hadn't she left I ordered a glass of Txakolina and a plate of anchovies, and studied the train schedule to Paris.

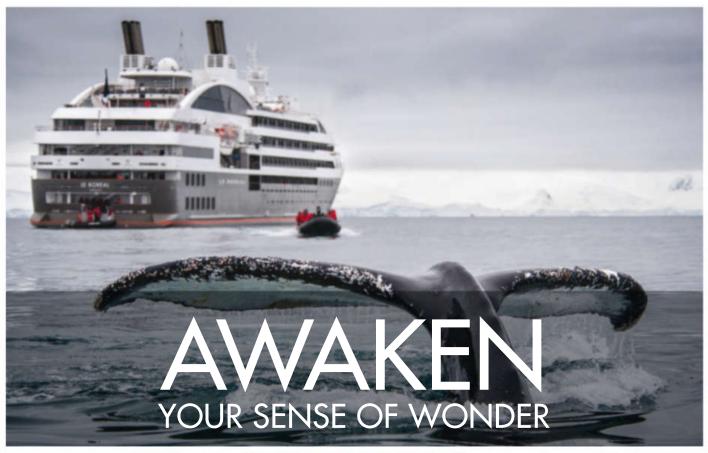
That night Madame turned off the water while I was showering. She was livid about something indecipherable, perhaps about my using all the hot water. I stood on the balcony in my towel, soapy and shivering, and looked out over the valley. It was so stillprescient, somehow—I couldn't tear myself away to step back inside. If I were a different kind of person I would have admitted to my fellow travelers that my life had fallen apart. That one second I had been whole, safe, and the next I was no longer married, no longer had a home. That I had come because I wanted to believe in something again, check off the boxes until I was healed. But I was not that kind of person yet. I was still wearing my wedding ring. That night I saw the stars when the clouds finally split over the Pyrenees and I thought about the word holy.



Seeking Shelter

On a tour of ancient granaries in the arid landscape of southern Morocco, Eve Kahn discovers the picturesque history of these architectural marvels—and the plan to rescue them from ruin. PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMAR GROVER

> THE ZIGZAGGING PATH LED TO a stone fortification on a cliff. Its curved, monolithic walls faced a towering mountain range, almost disappearing into the landscape. For centuries, ancient Berber tribes and nomads locked up food and other valuables here and fought off any marauders who made it to this remote spot. As I maneuvered along the loose-rock trail, I was far outpaced by the fortress's aged caretaker, Mohamed Amarir, who led my family and our guide, Hassan Idfath. Inside the entry gate, we ducked through hobbit doorways into mazes of storerooms. Crouching along the sandy floors, we found ourselves in a cool, tall cavern, with storage jars half-sunken into the earth. Slit windows overhead reduced the Moroccan sun to dusty gold rectangles. At eye level, I glimpsed an oasis, an improbable blaze of green palms, carob, and oleander in a rust-colored canyon. >>









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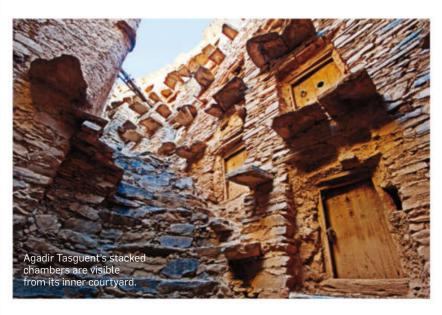
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/ beyond / THE QUEST



The building, called Agadir Aguelluy, is one of Morocco's hundreds of communal granaries, known as igoudar in a Berber dialect (the singular is agadir). Communal granaries exist elsewhere in North Africa, but the Moroccan structures are the most attractive. They've also become a cause célèbre among philanthropists and travelers, offering a fascinating glimpse into a quickly disappearing North African culture. Donors, including the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and Moroccan royal agencies, are financing agadir restorations to boost tourism and create jobs.

This spring, I visited half a dozen igoudar in a three-day whirlwind. Many still serve as storage spaces for provisions, but most are abandoned. They range in shape and height, some honeycombed into hillsides, others surrounded by villages or perched on hilltops. I based my itinerary on suggestions from Salima Naji, a charismatic architect and anthropologist working to preserve igoudar, and Zhor Rehihil, the brilliant and feisty curator of the Moroccan Jewish Museum, which is helping document traces of vanished rural Jewish communities.

I began in Idfath's coastal-resort hometown, also called Agadir. From there, the drive inland to Aguelluy takes about 2½ hours—often on newly paved highways—and there are granaries scattered across the hills for hundreds of miles around. Imagine a road trip across a sunbaked landscape, with no souvenir stands and hardly any signs or tourists. Wherever we stopped, even just to ask directions, the locals invited us to share mint tea with them. The Moroccan government is a stable American ally, and the people are endlessly hospitable. Though most old customs remain, a little modernity has crept into these parts. Nomads install solar panels outside their tents. Teenage girls, in billowing robes called haiks, ride donkeys while chatting on cell phones.

Standing within the fortress at Aguelluy, Idfath translated as caretakers explained the repairs under way and the traditional uses of the compartments. Locals still lock hewn-plank doors with wooden keys the size of spatulas to safeguard grain, honey, oils, and jewelry. Long ago, sentinels would have kept a lookout, which allowed nomadic families to roam for weeks on end. After harvesting the land, they would have lugged their stockpiles back to the cool, dark agadir. I imagined them feeling safe and secure as they left the stronghold, heading back into the Moroccan sun.

THE DETAILS Create your own itinerary to visit Morocco's granaries, page 186



/ beyond / AT TABLE



The Party's on the Plate

Think Cancún is just about frozen margaritas and resort buffets? Think again. Raphael Kadushin finds that the city is trading its spring-break image for serious culinary bona fides. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOAQUIN TRUJILLO



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Nizuc Resort & Spa; Bladimir García, chef at Ramona, one of the restaurants at Nizuc; snail aguachile, a chile-spiked ceviche, at Ramona.



BLADIMIR GARCÍA, head chef at Ramona restaurant, is a true mole master. His spicy mole del centro, commonly found in Mexico City, blends peanuts, pistachios, almonds, and ancho chile. He douses his short-rib stew with mole del olla, a vegetable-heavy version from central Mexico. And the smoky mole de Oaxaca on his turkey breast contains chilhuacle chile, native to the southern part of the country. What's most surprising about all these artful moles is where García is serving them: Ramona is located in Nizuc Resort & Spa, on the edge of Cancún, a city more commonly associated with mudslide-like moles, limp tacos, and endless tequila shots than with thoughtfully sourced, ambitiously prepared cuisine.

How did a culinary scene blossom in this former gastronomic wasteland? Simple: now that Mexican chefs are turning into global stars, like Enrique Olvera (Mexico City's Pujol), Alejandro Ruiz >>

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/ beyond / AT TABLE

(Casa Oaxaca), and Daniel Ovadía (Mexico City's Paxia restaurants), many ambitious cooks who had left for European kitchens are returning or choosing not to leave in the first place. And Cancún, flush with resort cash and dense with uninspired hotel restaurants, is an obvious destination for them—especially since the city's increasingly food-savvy visitors are no longer willing to settle for soupy guacamole and assembly-line enchiladas. The result is a flurry of great new restaurants on and off the resort strip.

RAMONA

García's kitchen at Nizuc-an airy sweep of Yucatecan wood, sandstone, and Mayan-inspired murals situated between mangrove forests and a coral reef-is the leader in Cancún's new food movement. The chef's ambition, he says, is to present diners with "traditional recipes elevated by new techniques." Ramona's elegant, pared-down dining room looks out on the Caribbean Sea, the source of the seafood that fills García's menu. This includes hogfish smoked Mayan-style in corn leaves; octopus marinated in chipotle sauce; lobster with a plantain purée; and a sea bass that rests in a green mole emulsion with herbs from Nizuc's garden. There's also turf to go with all that surf, like a slow-cooked suckling pig from a nearby farm, paired with Yucatecan onion compote and roasted pineapple. nizuc.com; entrées \$19-\$41.

LA JOYA

At this restaurant in the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Resort, chef Francisco Flores Obieta draws on earlier stints cooking in France and at Pujol. His grouper fillet marinated in annatto and a cactus-leaf salad tossed with roasted Oaxacan grasshoppers are characteristic of his menu's indigenous bent. coralbeach cancunresort.com; entrées \$15-\$23.

LE CHIOUE

Inside Azul Sensatori Hotel, Jonatán Gómez Luna Torres shows off his training at Spain's legendary, now-shuttered El Bulli with extensive tasting menus that favor foams, crystals, and shape-shifting dishes (foie gras masquerading as cotton candy). But the culinary theatrics don't obscure the down-home flavors of the cochinita brioche or the taco de hoja santa. lechiquerestaurante. com; tasting menu \$150.

TEMPO

Opened in 2012, the restaurant at Paradisus Cancún is fronted by Martín Berasategui, the Basque chef known for his namesake Michelin three-starred restaurant outside San Sebastián, Spain. His presence might suggest that Cancún is headed the way of Las Vegas, with celebrity chefs who make only rare cameos in kitchens bearing their names. But this is no culinary hit-and-run. Berasategui is >>







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beyond / AT TABLE





CHEF CRISTIAN MORALES

This intimate, 40-seat dining room sits inside its chef-owner's own white stucco house on a residential block in central Cancún, far from the big beach resorts. The 36-year-old Morales, who has worked at restaurants throughout Europe, adds Mediterranean accents to classic Yucatecan recipes in his campaign to prove that Mexican food can be, as he says, "more than just tacos and beans." The cross-cultural payoff comes in the form of silky langoustine

carpaccio, an osso buco with chiles and beans, and best of all, Morales's signature dish of ravioli stuffed with huitlacoche, the Yucatán's characteristically earthy corn fungus. chef cristianmorales.com; entrées \$12-\$75.

JULIA MÍA

Around the corner from Morales, sisters Lupita and Irma Chavez offer their own salute to regional cuisine with variations on old standbys that pile up the flavors on a single plate. Take their flautas, filled to bursting with duck, walnuts, orange, and honey; their tuna encrusted with hibiscus flowers, served over smashed sweet potatoes; or their shrimp, marinated in salsa borracha and topped by mango guacamole, roasted pineapple, and red onion. The most distinctive dish, though, inspired by the cooking of their native state of Jalisco, is a bowl of goat meat swimming in a broth of cilantro, lime, and chorizo. The traditional Mexican folk band that performs nightly adds to the festive mood. juliamia.com.mx; entrées \$6-\$23.





RESTAURANT MORA MORA

This scruffy, street-food-centric establishment is as close as the city gets to boho, with rotating art exhibitions and graffiti decorating the walls. The main attraction, however, is 29-year-old native son Christian Rodriguez's beer-braised beef tongue taco-a definitive rebuke to the city's cautious cooking of old. Rodriguez's backstreet café in such a humble setting might feel like an outlier, but its dedication to reviving the Mexican table takes Cancún's culinary ambitions to the next level, and suggests that the current wave of inventive dining hasn't crested yet in this suddenly interesting resort town. 46 Guadalupe Victoria; 52-998-115-1617; entrées \$10-20. €



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A view of the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier, part of the Vatnajökull ice cap, in southeastern Iceland.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT T+L JOURNEYS ARE ON PAGE 142.

/ guide / T+L JOURNEYS

What is it that elevates a humble vacation to that romantic, lofty-sounding thing, a trip of a lifetime?



The destination, of course, is all-important. It must be a place that is in some way exceptional—be it culturally, or architecturally, or in terms of its natural beauty. But the way in which you visit must be exceptional, too. There must be comfortluxury, even; there should be variety, and a genuine sense of escape. Most important, though, such a trip should provide a sense of connection with a place, and an understanding of the qualities that make it unique.

If ever a destination can be said to be truly exceptional, it is Iceland. Perched on the rift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, this rugged island is one of the most volcanically and seismically active places on earth. Icelanders know that their world is one of absolute uncertainty, that their singular land of fire and ice is liable to change at any moment. For a visitor-especially one accustomed to inhabiting a cozy urban cocoon—Iceland provides a rare opportunity to reconnect with this sense of elemental uncertainty, with the notion of our planet as a living thing.

It was not a feeling I had prepared for. Like many people, I assumed Eyjafjallajökull—the volcano that erupted in 2010,

CLOCKWISE

ice cap: the

Seljalandsfoss

waterfall; outside the Ion hotel;

the Jökulsárlón

glacier lagoon.

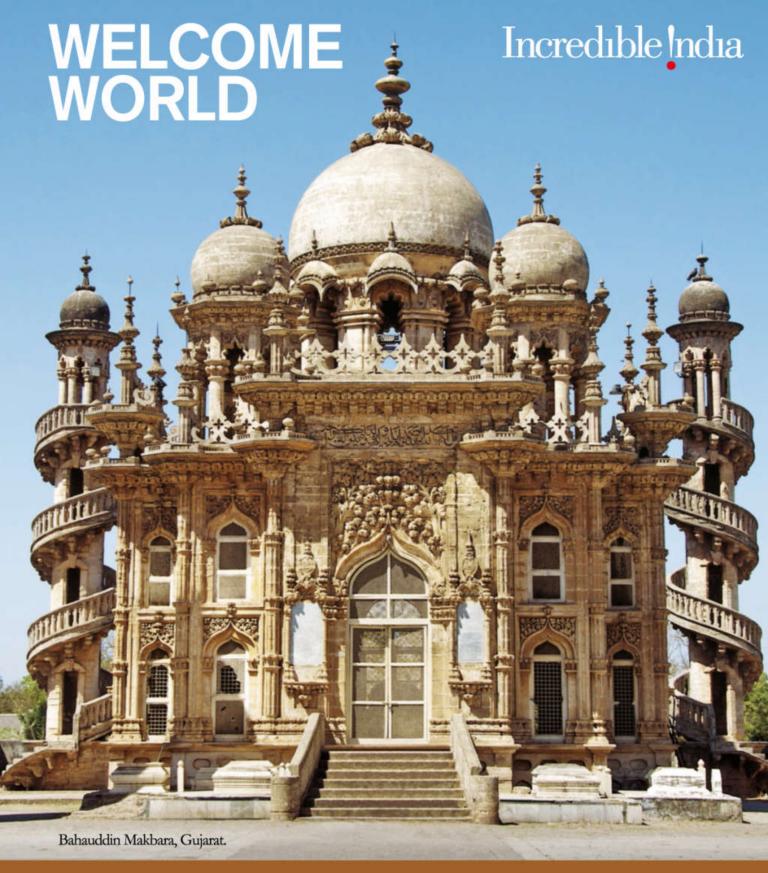
FROM TOP LEFT:

Hiking Iceland's Vatnaiökull

sending a giant plume of ash across mainland Europe and bringing international air traffic to a weeks-long standstill-was a freakish, one-off event.

"Eyjafjallajökull was a very nice eruption, very trivial," said Arnar Hugi Birkisson, my guide on an experience called Inside

the Volcano. "People were going up to the lava and cooking hot dogs on sticks," Birkisson said, as he and I were lowered, on a repurposed window-cleaning rig, into the gaping chimney of a dormant volcano called Þríhnúkagígur, in the southwest of the country.



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Down in the chamber, some 400 feet belowground, Birkisson told me about Grímsvötn, a volcano that blew in 2011, producing the same amount of ash in 36 hours as Eyjafjallajökull did in 40 days. Then there was Bárðarbunga, which last year spewed up a lava field the size of Manhattan. A six-foot-five Viking type in a hard hat and fluorescent all-weather gear, Birkisson had a cheerful tone that reduced these earth-shattering events to fairy tales. Around us, the interior of the volcano rose up in a cathedral of purples, reds, and yellows, blasted onto the rock by minerals oxidized during Þríhnúkagígur's last eruption, 4,000 years ago. Peering up at it all, I couldn't decide which was more humbling: the earth's mind-boggling power, or the Icelanders' capacity to withstand it.

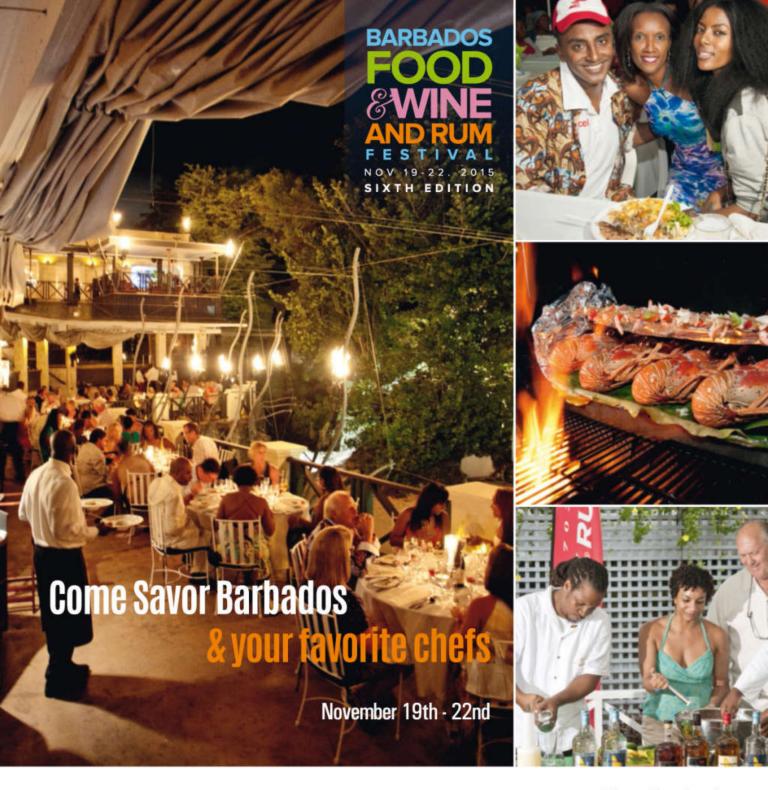
"Iceland has been steadily growing, one eruption at a time, for eighteen million years," said my driver, Einar Óli Matthíasson, as we sped through conditions that switched from sunshine to storms on an almost hourly basis. "This has made us very good at dealing with

situations as they arise." He pointed out an arctic fox as it skipped away across a lava field, disguised in a summertime coat the color of milky tea. Come winter it would be pure white again, Matthíasson said. It struck me that every living thing on this island was adapted to its shifting environment. For most of the inhabitants, it was still the only way to survive.

As a longtime city dweller, I began to enjoy being put in my place by Iceland's elemental and geological grandeur. The sensation accompanied me everywhere: while bouncing across the endless, otherworldly landscapes of Þórsmörk Canyon on a "super-jeep safari"; as I hiked on Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier and a backdrop for numerous film and TV productions, including Game of Thrones; as I zoomed in a Zodiac between aquamarine icebergs in Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon; as I stood in a natural, moss-clad amphitheater behind the vast, thundering falls at Seljalandsfoss; as I waited, nervously, for the ice-blue thermal springs at Stokkur to spit scalding water 65 feet into the air.

Even on their own, these experiences

would have qualified Iceland as a dream trip. But aside from all its natural wonders, the country has a whole range of ways to cosset a visitor after a bracing day outdoors. There are wonderful, worldclass hotels like the Ion, with its industrialchic design, where I soaked in an outdoor thermal pool overlooking a misty lava plain. There are delightful family-run places like Hótel Egilsson, set in a 150-year-old wooden house near the harbor at Stykkishólmur, where, in a sun-drenched dining room, I breakfasted on skyr (Icelandic yogurt) and cured salmon on house-made toast. There was fantastic Icelandic cuisine, like doublesmoked lamb with white cabbage and buttermilk, served by stylish young Icelanders at Reykjavík's Matur og Drykkur restaurant. And, on the walk home after dinner, there were views of the midnight sun as it dipped, just briefly, behind burnished fishing boats in the city's harbor. There was no doubt about it, this place had been exceptional—as had the journey. Iceland had, undeniably, been a trip of a lifetime. -FLORA STUBBS



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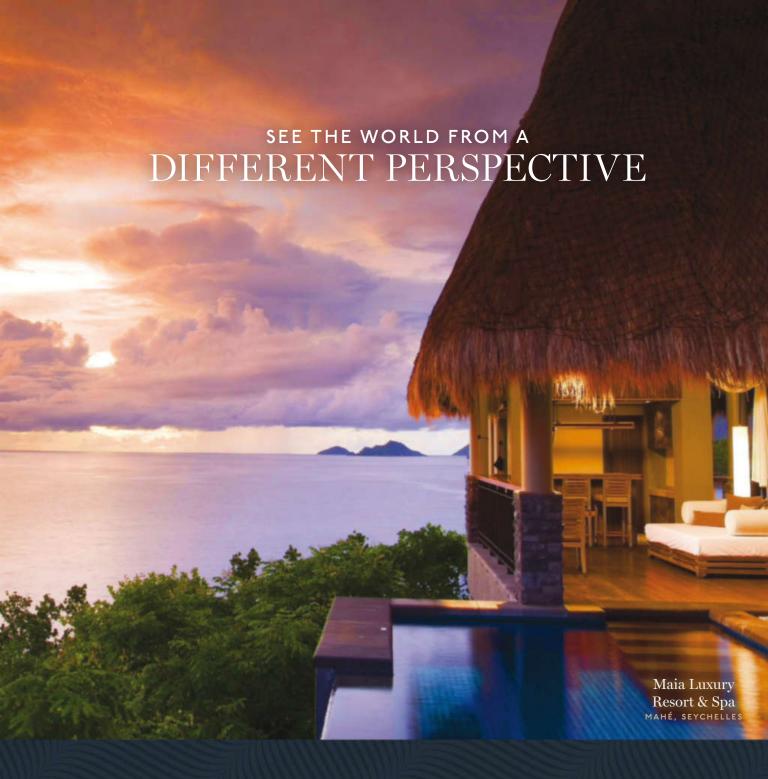
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WHY GO Because the stunning Dalmatian Coast conjures the Mediterranean of vestervear—the setting for your own private Odyssey.

With their cobblestoned alleys, intimate restaurants, storied palaces, and secluded caves, Croatia's beautiful islands—places like Vis, Brač, Biševo, and Hvar-have, surprisingly, been off the American radar. Yet they offer all the charm of the Greek Cyclades or Italy's Amalfi Coast, and are great to sail to and from with friends or family. Over a weeklong island-hopping jaunt-with a crew on hand to navigate, of course—you'll swim in crystal-blue seas, taste local wines too delicious to ever be exported, and eat fresh local food at

konobas (taverns). When you're not relaxing under an umbrella, you'll go on private walking tours of a medieval castle and cathedrals, or taste just-plucked oysters in the Bay of Mali Ston. Lore and history are wonderfully entangled here: discover Korčula, Marco Polo's rumored childhood home; the walled city of Dubrovnik; and the lush island of Mljet, dotted with ancient pine forests. It's said to be Ogygia in

ABOVE, CLOCK-WISE FROM TOP **LEFT: Swimming** off Koločep, one of the Elaphiti Islands; an oyster from the Bay of Mali Ston; Hvar's harbor.

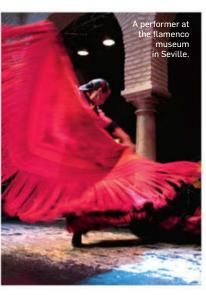
Homer's Odyssey, where Calypso held Odysseus for seven years. After you arrive, vou'll find vourself asking: Why did he want to leave? Cost based upon 10 people sharing a chartered yacht.



Spain

WHY GO Because Madrid and Seville offer high fashion, serious art, and incredible food-all of it experienced with the country's connected insiders.

Arrive hungry. Spain prides itself on its cooking, and you'll be eating your way through Madrid and Seville for more than a week. An excursion to Madrid's gourmet market Platea, with Michelin-approved chef Ramón Freixa-followed by a cooking class and dinner prepared by Freixa himself-kicks off the trip in proper style. Don't worry: you'll work off the paella as you shop with beauty queen and Bilbao-born model Inés Sáinz and take a walking tour of the masterpieces in the Prado and Reina Sofía. In Seville, you'll see the Real Alcázar by night: Black Tomato has opened the doors after hours, just for you. And after a day at Granada's Alhambra, it's back to Seville for a flamenco lesson and a guided crawl through the city's best tapas spots, including Casa Román. You'll return home well rested (those siestas are for real), your suitcase brimming with local ceramics and leather goods, and a newfound resolve to live like the Spanish. As Pablo Picasso said: "It takes a long time to become young."



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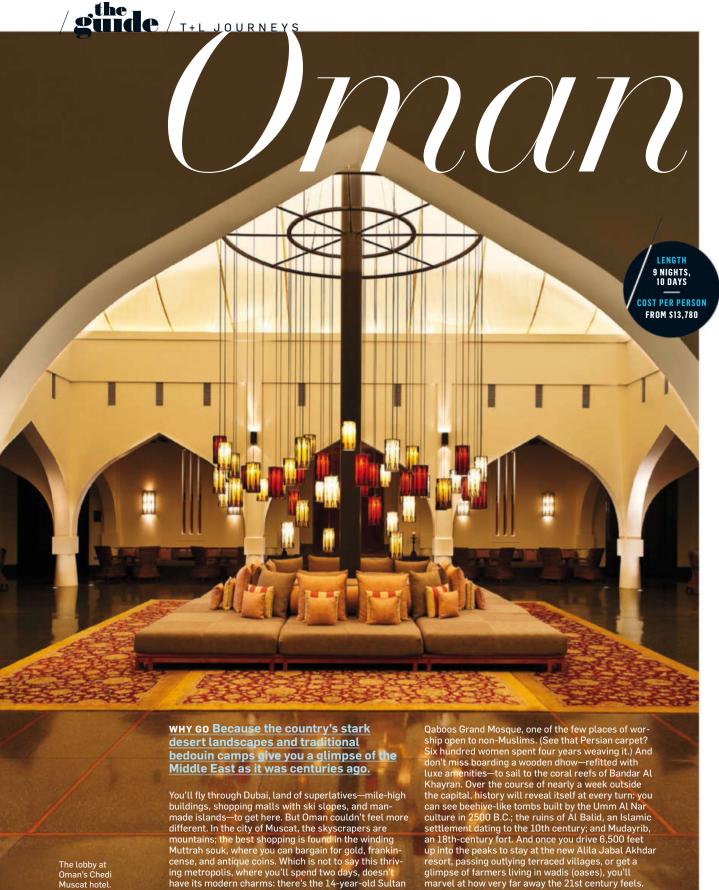
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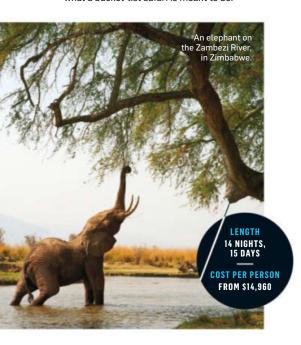


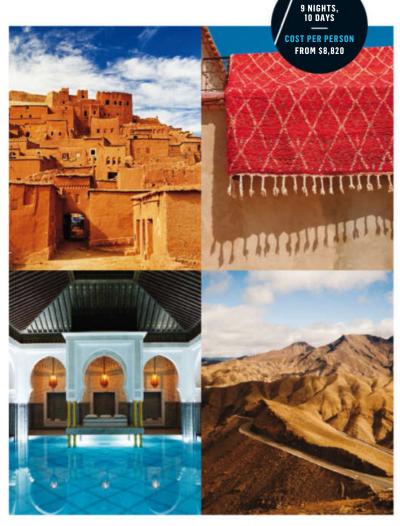
/ guide / T+L JOURNEYS

Zambia & Zimbabwe

WHY GO Because these often overlooked countries offer safaris for safari purists—without the hordes.

When it opened in May, Wilderness Safaris' Linkwasha Camp introduced Botswana-level luxury to Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, home to one of the densest concentrations of wildlife on the continent. Elephants, lions, southern giraffes, hyenas, cheetahs—you name it, and you'll probably spot it on twicedaily drives through the rolling floodplains. And at the eco-chic Ruckomechi Camp, you'll lose count of how many hippos and crocodiles emerge during unhurried canoe tours along the rushing Zambezi River. It's a marvel to see, all the more so because there are so few other visitors—the destination is only now establishing high-end tourism. Its neighbor Zambia often gets passed over, too, but it shouldn't: there's everything from prime game viewing to vistas of Victoria Falls (and value, to boot). Here, the late conservationist Norman Carr pioneered the immersive walking safari, now a staple activity at some of Africa's most exclusive lodges. No trip to Zambia would be complete without a stay at one of his bush camps. At the lavish new Chinzombo Lodge, an open-plan, six-villa complex overlooking the Luangwa River in South Luangwa National Park, it's all about the plains animals: zebras, wildebeests, antelopes, leopards. The two countries together, about a week in each, are what a bucket-list safari is meant to be.





Morocco

WHY GO Because this is a place where you can have it allincredible history, luxe hotels, flavors you've never tasted, and as much shopping as your luggage will allow.

Morocco is sensory overload in the best way possible: it's accessible yet exotic, urban yet completely wild, distinctly North African with a global, cosmopolitan edge. There's nothing more glamorous than lying by the palm-tree-shaded pool at Marrakesh's La Mamounia, a hotel that has drawn the glitterati (everyone from Marlene Dietrich to Jennifer Aniston) for nearly a century. And few experiences are more humbling than driving up a twisty, narrow, two-lane road through the High Atlas Mountains, trekking with nomads in the Jebel Saghro range, or landing in the desertarguably the true soul of Morocco. Riding camels and sleeping in a deluxe tented camp on the Erg Chebbi dunes of the Sahara is like being on a

movie set come to life. It's the perfect foil to the splendid chaos of your next stop: the medieval medina in Fez, which is still inaccessible to cars and has a mazelike souk where you can hunt for exquisitely crafted Berber necklaces, carved wooden boxes, handwoven rugs, and saffron that smells like the real thing, because it is.

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Aït Benhaddou, a fortified city and UNESCO site in Ouarzazate; a rug hanging in Marrakesh's medina; the High Atlas Mountains; La Mamounia's indoor pool.

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"Lexington has the charm of a small, southern town and the culture of a big, booming city."



"It's a great travel destination because it's full of culture and life, without the high price tag of a major metropolitan area."

-MINDY ROHR

Lexingtonian and Love Lexington blogger



FRESH FLAVORS

Thanks to the vision and dedication of talented chefs, brewers, and distillers, Lexington is enjoying an impressive culinary movement. With new foodie spots popping up on just about every corner (there are now more than 100 independently owned restaurants, breweries, and distilleries in and around town), there's something here to satisfy any palate.

Lexington's culinary scene can be described as a proud mix of the traditional and imaginative, artisanal and approachable. Southern and cosmopolitan. Which means you can tuck in to Southern staples like hot browns, BBQ, and shrimp and grits, but also venture "beyond grits" to inspired things like bourbon-infused entrees, hand-crafted ice cream, and eclectic food trucks.



GRABADRINK

Locals claim Lexington is the "Best Place in America to Grab a Drink"—and with good reason! The city's proximity to the Kentucky Bourbon Trail means there are 9 famous distilleries within 35 miles of downtown. The up-and-coming Distillery District, located on the site of the historic James Pepper Distillery, is home to a popular array of bars, restaurants, food trucks, and distilleries, including can't-miss spots such as Town Branch Distillery and Barrel House Distilling, Explore the constantly evolving craft beer scene along the Brewgrass Trail, or check local listings for a year-round calendar of events, tastings, Bluegrass concerts, and more—all celebrating the Lexington life.



TRACK STARS

This year, Lexington's historic Keeneland Race Course will host one of the most prestigious traditions in Thoroughbred racing. The Breeders' Cup World Championships (Oct. 30 and 31). To celebrate, the city will be alive with events, concerts, exhibits, and festivities throughout the month of October—all in honor of the two biggest days in Thoroughbred racing coming to the "Horse Capital of the World."





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Jon Carloftis Lexingtonian, Award-Winning Gardener/Designer

"When you're at Keeneland Race Course and you go right down to the edge of the track – and you're leaning over and the horses are pounding right by you – there's nothing more exciting."



Ouita Michel Local Chef and Restaurateur, Windy Corner and Smithtown Seafood

"The restaurants and local chefs in Lexington are really incorporating local agriculture and bourbon into their cooking – the things that make Kentucky, Kentucky."



Joshua Naylor Manager and Mixologist, Grey Goose

"In Lexington, you get the best of both worlds: downtown has a big-city feel, but it retains the sense of connectedness and community of a small town. You know your neighbor. You talk to your neighbor."



Sal Salvador Local Business Owner, A Cup of Commonwealth

"You want beer? We have breweries. You want shopping? We have boutiques. You want great food? We have restaurants on every corner. You want bourbon? Well, that's on every corner as well."



Mindy Rohr Local Blogger, Love, Lexington

"Lexington is to Kentucky what Napa is to California – only with bourbon! Where else can you visit nine different distilleries within 35 minutes?"

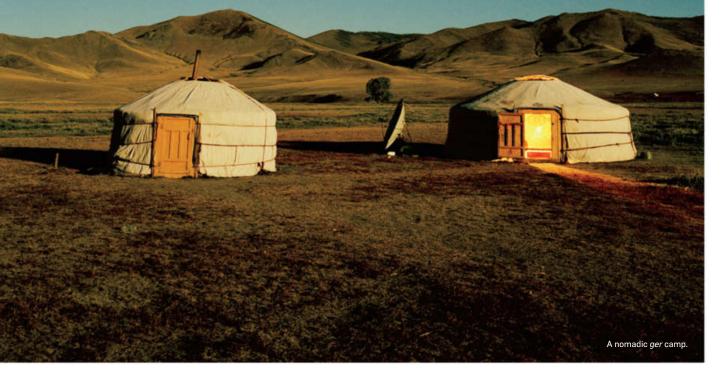
Mongolia

LENGTH

WHY GO Because it really is possible to see how the great khans lived and traveled, and to sleep under the stars in pristine wilderness.

You don't fly halfway around the world to Mongolia unless you're up for two things: horseback riding and glamping—some of the best in the world. Barely an hour outside the fast-growing capital of Ulaanbaatar, buildings give way to wildflower-filled meadows and green valleys, where nomads still raise horses and sheep. For nearly a week you'll be bedding down in a private ger (tent), complete with amenities like heated

showers, sundowners, and personal chefs, and diving into the tribal lifestyle. After a native horseman shows you the correct way to saddle up, you'll ride for hours on end, even into the vast Terelj National Park, and join in on milking mares and making airag, a fermented drink that is traditionally offered as a symbol of hospitality. Next, fly northwest to the shores of cobalt Lake Khovsgol, where sables, moose, deer, ibex, and marmots still have free rein, to kayak the glittering waters. You'll also visit local yak herders, take an archery lesson, and have a traditional hot-stone barbecue. You've never seen cowboy culture quite like this. Cost based upon a party of four; from \$14,370 for two.



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WHY GO Because relaxation doesn't come in purer form than in Kerala, with its ancient wellness culture and lush landscapes.

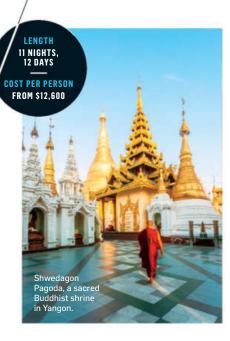
From the minute you arrive at Purity, a striking modern villa on the shore of Kerala's Lake Vembanad, you'll begin to breathe a little deeper. The horizon stretches away endlessly in front of you, and the only sound is the dipping of boatmen's oars out on the water. In contrast to much of India, relaxation is part of this southern coastal region's culture. On a daylong backwater cruise in a traditional kettuvallam, or houseboat, you'll observe the calm simplicity of waterfront life. For four nights, you'll stay in jaw-dropping hotels, from the grand, historical Brunton Boatyard in the port of Cochin to a tree house set on a 400-acre coffee and spice estate in Wayanad. During two days at Bison Camps in Kabini National Park, just over the border in Karnataka, you'll spot elephants, leopards, and possibly tigers as they roam the banks of the Kabini River. Conclude with three full days at Neeleshwar Hermitage, a resort on Kerala's Malabar Coast. Try holistic treatments like abhyanga, where two therapists massage special ayurvedic oils into your skin. Wellness might be a focus of many India itineraries. but Kerala-the birthplace of ayurveda-is the place to experience it.

Myanmar

WHY GO Because the country is on the cusp of major change, following the end of a 49-year military rule. Mass tourism hasn't descended on the temples, mist-covered hills, and rural villages—yet.

As you spend a few days in each of Myanmar's most compelling corners, what will fascinate you most are the people and their distinctive culture. In the bustling city of Yangon, men still wear traditional longyi (floor-length wraparound skirts) and women cover their faces with thanakha, a yellowish paste made from ground bark, to protect their skin from the sun. Fly an hour north to Heho, drive to the colonial town of Kalaw, and set out to see

remote mountain communities. Here, locals go about their daily chores, carrying wood on their backs and preparing monhinga, a ricenoodle and fish soup. Nearby Inle Lake is where life revolves around the water. You'll glide on a boat past villages that rise up on stilts and observe fishermen who, as if by magic, balance on one leg, hold a paddle in the other, and use both hands to cast their nets. The ancient city of Bagan, a short flight east, is more about the people who once lived there: between 1044 and 1287, more than 10,000 Buddhist temples and stupas were built. Today, some 2,000 remain, and the most breathtaking view is from a private sunrise hot-air-balloon ride organized by Black Tomato. Resist the temptation to snap photo after photo: it's an image you will never forget.





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Discover the Caribbean's finest resort and luxury villas at Casa de Campo, and experience one of the Dominican Republic's most exceptional destinations. Soak up the sun on white-sand beaches, play tennis on 13 Har-Tru tennis courts, or set up a polo match at the Polo & Equestrian Club. Test your skills at the 245-acre shooting facility, or update your photo stream with a trophy-caliber Blue Marlin caught where the Chavón River meets the Caribbean Sea. The possibilities are endless at this 7,000-acre luxury destination—just don't miss the yachting excursion to the resort's private Catalina Island.

GOLF SWEET SPOT

Featuring three of the most challenging courses in the game—Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore, and The Links—Casa de Campo is swinging into high gear this season with a new practice facility slated to open in November. Created by Pete Dye, who also designed the resort's three iconic courses, the cutting-edge facility features a 400-yard driving range and the esteemed Jim McLean Golf School. Located just south of the 10th and 11th holes of the legendary Teeth of the Dog course, the short-game practice area also simulates real course play—down to the fresh Paspalum grass—for a consistent experience from practice to play.

AN ELITE EXPERIENCE

Beyond its paramount golf program, Casa de Campo is a culinary haven with five restaurants, including La Caña by II Circo and The Beach Club by Le Cirque. Sample fresh seafood and stellar wines at La Caña, or savor the view at the elegant oceanfront Beach Club along with impeccably prepared grilled dishes, fresh pastas, and more. Likewise, the 370-slip Marina & Yacht Club attracts an elite sailing crowd, while the 16th-century-inspired Altos de Chavon artisan village bustles with boutiques, museums, and a 5,000-seat Grecian-style amphitheater overlooking the scenic Chavón River.



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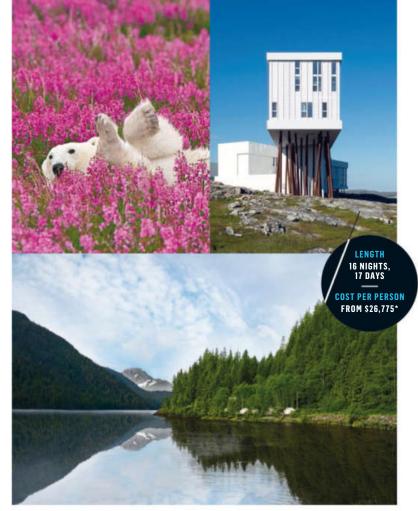


Papua New Guinea

WHY GO Because this is your oncein-a-lifetime chance to go rogue for nearly a month in a country where tribal culture still thrives.

To remind you exactly where Papua New Guinea is: it's a nation just north of Australia, occupying the eastern half of the island of New Guinea as well as numerous smaller isles stretching into the sea. You're way out there, and this is a trip that requires mental and physical preparation (don't expect marble bathrooms or room service). The reward, however, is complete disconnection from technology and some of the most memorable hiking and intense local encounters of your life. Begin with two nights at the Grand Papua Hotel in the capital, Port Moresby, where you'll explore the city's markets and play highland darts with locals before flying to the village of Fogomaiyu, deep in the rain forest. For the next three weeks, Black Tomato has arranged overnights at remote camps that offer access to the ancestral hunting grounds of the Kosua, a tribe of roughly 1,000 people. Guides will introduce you to these villagers, who paint their bodies crimson and wear incredible feathered headdresses. You'll also be spelunking in limestone caves and hiking deep into the Bosavi Crater, home to fanged frogs and giant woolly rats. You might even learn to weave a basket, set a bat trap, and hunt iguana. After these immersive days and nights, you'll return stronger, leaner, confident in your ability to sleep next to roaring waterfalls, and—who knows?—maybe even bearing a tattoo from a Kosua tribeswoman.





Mada

WHY GO Because this is North America's unsung frontiervast and pure, where wildlife far outnumber people.

Forget Route 66. A more adventurous and lavish cross-country trip lies farther north. Start on Vancouver Island for this continent's version of an African safari-deluxe tents with antique rugs, oil lamps, and heirloom china included. During four days at Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, a luxurious camp set among oldgrowth forests, the routine is blissfully simple; look out for black bears foraging onshore and whales breaching in Cow Bay. A stop in Vancouver, with its dynamic restaurant and nightlife scene, is a perfect urban jolt before almost a full week back in the wilderness, this time in northern Manitoba. Seal River Heritage Lodge on Hudson Bay-where you can track

beluga whales and polar bears is as spectacularly rustic a setting as you'll find in North America. Then, after a night in Winnipeg at Inn at the Forks, Black Tomato will show you a day in Toronto before your flight to Newfoundland. Here, where icebergs loom in the Atlantic, Canada's pioneering spirit reveals itself at places like Fogo Island Inn, a hotel reachable by ferry off Newfoundland's northeastern coast. There's a distinct sense of place and community: bedspreads and furniture are crafted by local artisans, and the chef sources ingredients from caribou

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A polar bear in northern Manitoba; Fogo Island Inn; Clayoquot Wilderness Resort tents along the banks of Bedwell Sound. on Vancouver Island.

moss to pine mushrooms-a testament to being at one with the great outdoors. *A 10-night itinerary is also available.

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Teddy's Caretaker

Our son Matthew brings his teddy bear with him everywhere. And our recent trip to Chicago was no exception. We stayed at the Waldorf Astoria and had a fabulous time. But when we got home, our son realized he'd left his teddy at the hotel.

We immediately emailed the concierge, Ernest. He let us know they found the bear and would mail it back to us.

When the package arrived Matthew ripped it open. He gasped, "Dad!" I ran over to see what the fuss was about. Inside was his teddy...along with photographs of the bear all over the hotel! At high tea. Sitting in the lobby. In the spa. These photos were arranged in the package along with a note that read, "Dear Matthew, I'm so glad to be home with you. But I did enjoy myself at the hotel. Thanks for the trip!" Here's to you, Ernest, for using your imagination to make our son's day!



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lead you to Ometepe, one of the 365 islets in massive Lake Nicaragua, to swim under waterfalls and walk a trail lined by petroglyphs. An equally stylish crowd is descending upon Panama City, where you'll be for three nights at the American Trade Hotel. Set in a landmark 1917 building, this cool newcomer is part of the historic Casco Viejo district, which has gone from gritty to glamorous with its galleries, shops, and restaurants, like the Spanish-Mediterranean-influenced

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Panama Canal; a beach cabana at Mukul; climbing Nicaragua's Cerra Negro Volcano; a room at the American Trade Hotel, in Panama

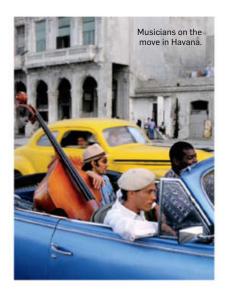
Madrigal. And in true jet-set style, Black Tomato will set up a private evening helicopter tour, flying over the San Lorenzo Fortress and the famous canal for first-class views.



Cuba

WHY GO Because, as the doors open for U.S. travelers, now's the time to go, before chain hotels appear and those '57 Chevvs vanish.

There's no denying the country's fascinating time-capsule quality, with its gloriously crumbling cobblestoned plazas and beautiful faded façades in Old Havana. But on this trip, Black Tomato will show you that the city's revitalization is in full swing. You'll see it in the sophisticated apartments for rent, like Penthouse Ydalgo, your base for three nights in the leafy Vedado neighborhood, or in the spate of new paladares (private, familyrun restaurants) popping up in unconventional spaces like neglected tenements and refurbished factories. You'll encounter aspiring musicians at Fábrica de Arte Cubano, a renowned cultural venue, and artists at the Instituto Superior de Arte, a hotbed for young talent. But Cuba is so much more than Havana, and for four days outside the city, time slips backward. Head west toward Viñales, an agricultural town lined with wooden houses, and you'll pass oxen plowing tobacco fields. Down south, in colonial Trinidad, you'll stay at Finca Kenia, built in the 19th century, and tour the vestiges of sugar plantations, where ruins linger like ghosts.



WHY GO Because, combined, the two offer a slice of unspoiled wilderness and exciting urban life that's off the typical tourist track.

Sunny. Easy to get to. Under the radar. Both Nicaragua and Panama are emerging as Central America's "it" destinations. Nicaragua's Emerald Coast, where the pristine beaches are marked only by their rolling waves, now lures a fashion-forward, eco-conscious crowd. They, like you, are checking in to Mukul, the country's top resort and the vision of local billionaire Carlos Pellas, All 37 rooms overlook the Pacific; for four nights, you'll be in a modern bohio (tree house) that was built from sustainable teak and pine. Fill your days with surfing lessons and seaside dinners. Or a private guide can









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/ guide / T+L JOURNEYS

New Classics

Five more trips to favorite destinations both near and far.

Japan

LENGTH 10 NIGHTS/11 DAYS PRICE \$9,840 PER PERSON

Japan is defined as much by its hypermodernity as by its heritage, and Black Tomato will show you the best of both worlds. In Tokyo, stay at the serene new Aman hotel, tour the pulsating shopping district of Shibuya, and visit Senso-ji, the city's oldest Buddhist temple. In Hakone, take a dip in onsen baths and taste kaiseki cuisine before bedding down in a traditional ryokan. End by hopping on the bullet train to Kyoto, where you'll stroll the Gion geisha district and seek inner peace at the tranquil rock garden at Ryoan-ji. TANDL.ME/JOURNEYS-JAPAN

Colombia

LENGTH 6 NIGHTS/7 DAYS PRICE \$5,860 PER PERSON

This South American jewel is ripe for exploring. You'll walk the colorful streets of Cartagena, taste local coffee on a lush plantation, float along the Vieja River aboard a bamboo raft, and weave baskets with local artisans—all before the week is out. TANDL.ME/JOURNEYS-COLOMBIA

California

LENGTH 3 NIGHTS/4 DAYS PRICE FROM \$1,960 PER PERSON

Highlights of this sunny trip to Palm Springs include a stay at the retro-chic Avalon Hotel and a tour of the destination's Midcentury landmarks with local



architecture expert Trevor O'Donnell. TANDL.ME/JOURNEYS-CALIFORNIA

Tennessee

LENGTH 4 NIGHTS/5 DAYS PRICE FROM \$3,390 PER PERSON

You'll see two sides of Tennessee: Nashville, with its red-hot music scene (check out the Grand Ole Opry on a VIP tour) as well as Knoxville, which has become a foodie mecca thanks to Blackberry Farm, a Relais & Châteaux property. TANDL.ME/JOURNEYS-TENNESSEE

St.Vincent and the Grenadines

LENGTH 6 NIGHTS/7 DAYS
PRICE FROM \$5,670 PER PERSON

Yes, there are still offthe-radar places in the Caribbean. Combine three days at sea on a traditional wooden schooner—sailing, swimming with turtles, snorkeling the pristine Tobago Cays—with three days of lounging at Petit St. Vincent, one of the region's most exclusive resorts. TANDL.ME/JOURNEYS-CARIBBEAN

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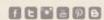














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- 3. Washington, D.C.
- 4. San Francisco

It's no surprise the Big Apple is a favorite, and these new spots—many perfect for wheeling and dealing—just add to its appeal.

POWER LUNCH

The new namesake spot from (1) Gabriel Kreuther (gknyc. com; lunch prix fixe \$52)—formerly of the Modern—is finally open, in a midtown location with none of the midtown blahs. Tufted whiteleather banquettes and repurposed wooden beams set

the stage for the Alsatian-inspired two-course menu.

SEAL-THE-DEAL DINNER

At the Clocktower (theclocktowernyc. com; entrées \$23-\$54)—a nouveauretro restaurant inside Ian Schrager's New York Edition hotel-London chef

Jason Atherton adds British flavors to classic American dishes. Try the macaroni and cheese with slowcooked ox cheek and mushrooms.

CLIENT COCKTAILS

You'll impress them with your insider clout as you weave your way through the stylish Greenwich Village crowd at the Happiest Hour and head straight for Slowly Shirley (slowlyshirley.com), the lounge downstairs. Burgundy leather seats, mahogany paneling, and Art Deco sconces conjure a glamorous 1940s Hollywood vibe.





A FREE AFTERNOON

America's fastest elevator will launch you to **One World** Observatory (one worldobservatory. com)—and the city's best skyline views. Then, stroll to nearby (3) Brookfield Place (brookfieldplaceny. com) to shop under a dramatic atrium. At Le District (ledistrict. com), the Eataly of French food, pick up a baquette and

some charcuterie, and head outside for lunch on the Hudson

PRODUCTIVE UNWINDING

At the third-floor Living Room of the (2) Park Hyatt (park. hyatt.com), meetingweary travelers can relax (or catch up on e-mail) in a polished, residential-feeling environment complete with free Wi-Fi. Order wine from the adjacent bar.



HOTEL BRANDS FOR BUSINESS

TOP 5 OVERALL

1. The Peninsula Hotels

- 2. Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts
- 3. Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group
- 4. Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts
- 5. Park Hvatt

TOP 3 CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts

2. Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

TOP 3 BUSINESS/ MEETING **FACILITIES**

LOYALTY PROGRAMS 3. The Peninsula Hotels

1. Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts

2. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company 3. Gaylord Hotels

1. Fairmont President's Club

2. Starwood Preferred Guest 3. Leaders Club



This small luxury chain—with properties in just 10 cities—sets the standard for amenities tailor-made for road warriors: gyms and business centers are available 24/7 upon request, jet-lagged execs can indulge in a rejuvenating "sleep ceremony" at the spa, and some locations have no set check-in time. There's also

an obsessive focus on technology. In the Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Paris (pictured) hotels, for example, guests control the TV, lighting, and thermostat, order room service, and send concierge requests by touching a bedside panel. (The Chicago and Beverly Hills locations are currently adding these capabilities.) And high-speed Wi-Fi is free-even in the Rolls-Royce Phantoms used for airport transfers in Hong Kong.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT; KIRA TURNBULL; COURTESY OF PARK HYATT NEW YORK; MATTHIEU SALVAING (2); COURTESY OF BROOKFIELD PLACE

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1 San Francisco

- 2. New York City
- 3. Las Vegas
- 4. San Diego
- 5. Orlando, Florida

Extra time in the Bay Area means fresh seafood and outdoor adventures.





IF YOU HAVE A DAY

For a heach-in-thecity experience, head to the Outer Sunset area, south of Golden Gate Park. After breakfast at Outerlands (outer landssf.com), walk to nearby Ocean Beach and watch surfers tackle the raging waves. Then, Uber north to the Presidio, the U.S. Army post turned 1,491-acre national park. You'll find 24 miles of hiking trails, a new cultural

center, and free walking tours of environmental art by Andy Goldsworthy. Chef Traci Des Jardins opened two restaurants last year, including the Spanish-influenced Commissary (the commissarysf.com; entrées \$24-\$32). Try the Alaskan halibut with chorizo, fennel broth, and clams at dinner. There's even a hotel: the (1) Inn at the Presidio (innatthe presidio.com;



doubles from \$270), with 22 rooms set in old officers' quarters.

IF YOU HAVE A WEEKEND

You could hightail it to wine countryor discover the rugged beauty of cow country, specifically the area around (2) Point Reyes National Seashore (nps.gov/pore). On the way, make a detour to (3) Hog Island Oyster Farm (hogislandoysters. com) for barbecued oysters with a view of Tomales Bay. Late afternoon is the perfect time to sample locally made meads

at Heidrun Meadery (heidrunmeadery com) before checking in to the four-suite **B&B** Druids Hall (olemadruidshall. com: doubles from \$250). The owners also run Sir & Star (sirandstar.com). which is dedicated to cooking with local bounty. Don't miss the \$75 Saturday supper. The next day, hike the Tomales Point Trail to see native tule elk The reward? More bivalves—this time paired with Marin County Viognier on tap-at Depot at Saltwater (saltwater oysterdepot.com).

DOMESTIC AIRLINES FOR BUSINESS

TOP 5 OVERALL

- 1. Virgin America
- 2. Alaska Airlines
- 3. JetBlue Airways
- 4. Delta Air Lines
- Southwest Airlines

JetBlue was the first to adopt Apple Pay on board. There's also free Wi-Fi on most of its planes—next year, it will be fleet-wide.

TOP 3 ECONOMY/PREMIUM ECONOMY 1. Virgin America | 2. JetBlue | 3. Alaska

TOP 3 BUSINESS/FIRST CLASS 1. Delta | 2. United | 3. American

MEAL SERVICE This is the only U.S. airline with ondemand food ordering. Just press a button on the seatback touch screen, settle in, and wait for your artisanal-cheese plate to arrive.

virgin america

ENTERTAINMENT Two words: live streaming. Satellite Wi-Fi launched on 10 A320s last month, with more to come. Internet speeds are eight to 10 times faster than any other in-flight system.

CABIN UPGRADES Plush full-size pillows and duvets have spruced up an already standout

first-class cabin, complementing the white leather seats and lumbar massagers.

LOYALTY **PROGRAM**

HERE'S WHAT KEEPS

THE COMPETITION.

THE AIRLINE AHEAD OF

Its "no blackout date" policy—available for Elevate frequent-flier members—is a boon for those looking to book on major holidays and during peak travel periods.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT; MARVIN DEMBINSKY/IMAGEBRIEF; GWENDOLYN MEYER; COURTESY OF VIRGIN AMERICA; ALANNA HALE



IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE, IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.

Abraham Lincoln

Single vineyard Pinot Noir for a select few. For more info: www.cherrypiewines.com

2. Sydney

3. Toronto

4. Dubai

5. Hong Kong

A guide to city hot spots that will make your clients feel plugged-inplus a dose of culture for your few spare hours.





POWER LUNCH

First opened in 1917, the (2) lvy (the-ivy. co.uk; entrées \$25-\$68) has long been a favorite among West End bigwigs. Its harlequin stainedglass windows are still intact after a recent revamp by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, and now there's also a lighter menu, a new bar, and additional corner tables.

SEAL-THE-DEAL DINNER

Follow up your winning presentation with a meal and a killer view at the 31st-floor restaurant Aqua Shard (aguashard. co.uk; entrées \$27-\$59). Here, chef Ben Spaldingthe buzzed-about protégé of Gordon Ramsay and Simon Rogan who just took over the kitchen-turns out modern British fare TRAVEL HABITS

WORK ISN'T JUST ABOUT, WELL, WORK,

Visited a museum or other cultural sight

61% Fell off their exercise routine

19% Drank a little too much

Extended a trip by a day or longer for leisure

MEETING AS AN EXCUSE TO EAT AT A HOT NEW RESTAURANT

like twice-roasted Blythburgh pork belly.

CLIENT COCKTAILS The team behind the Wolseley restaurant has opened the Beaumont hoteland inside, you'll find the clubby **American** Bar (thebeaumont. com), a.k.a. Jimmy's. Your colleagues won't mind talking business over whiskey and cocktails amid walls covered in photos of circa-1930s celebrities.

A FREE **AFTERNOON**

The South Bank is lined with cultural institutions, includ-

ing the (1) Tate Modern (tate.org. uk). Now on display: "The World Goes Pop" (through January 24), showcasing Pop art from around the globe.

PRODUCTIVE UNWINDING

The lobby of the recently opened (3) Hoxton, Holborn (thehoxton.com; doubles from \$107) has four desktop Macs and offers free printing and Wi-Fi, while the restaurant and lounge have charging stations strategically placed near every table, chair, and sofa.



37% **1**% Exposure to new places Taking a break and different cultures from family 5% Enjoying hotels and 12% FAVORITE PARTS OF my expense account Getting 2% away from the office **BUSINESS TRAVEL** Being pampered/ taken care of by hotels $\underset{\text{Creative}}{4\%}$ 31% Meeting new people/ inspiration solidifying relationships with colleagues 8% Earning loyalty and clients points/miles



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1. Sydney

2. Paris

- 3. London
- 4. Amsterdam
- 5. Vancouver

Here's how to make the most of your leisure time Down Under.



IF YOU HAVE A DAY Sydney (park.hyatt. Start with a behindcom; doubles from the-scenes tour of \$751) for its central the Sydney Opera location and unbeat-

House (sydneyopera

worth the 7 a.m. call

time to see the inner

For a late Levantine-

of eggs with tomato,

salad, head to Bondi Beach staple Sefa

Kitchen (sefakitchen.

\$21). From there, it's

a short walk to the

iconic (3) Icebergs Swimming Club (icebergs.com.au) to

watch waves crash

over the Instagram-

worthy lap pool. For dinner, head across town to LuMi Bar &

Dining (lumidining.

com; eight-course

tasting menu \$73), where Federico Zanellato turns out

an innovative Italian-

Japanese menu. Stav

at the Park Hyatt

inspired breakfast

za'atar, and feta

com; entrées \$7-

house.com)-it's

workings of Jørn Utzon's masterpiece.

IF YOU HAVE A WEEKEND

able harbor views.

First, go for a stroll on the 21/2-mile Bondi to Bronte Coastal Walk. A 15-minute drive away, Paddington is the go-to spot for shopping. Don't miss (1) Intersection Paddington (the

ton.com.au), a strip lined with stylish boutiques that spotlight local designers like Bassike and Josh Goot, Join a well-heeled crowd at star chef Matt Moran's Chiswick (chiswickrestaurant. com.au; entrées \$21-\$43) for lunch in a lovely garden. The next morning, check out the Museum of Contemporary Art (mca.com.au)—its 4,000-strong collec-

intersectionpadding

tion includes works by paradigm-shifting Australian artists. Next, wander the lively streets of gritty turned bourgeois Surry Hills before ending up at the Basque-influenced (2) Firedoor (fire door.com.au; entrées \$12-\$30). (Tip: you'll want to make a reservation.) Lennox Hastie is so dedicated to cooking with fire that the kitchen isn't even wired for gas.





REPORTED BY: Christine Ajudua, Jonathan Chew, Claire Groden, Rachel Levin, Paola Singer, Emma Sloley, and Christopher Tkaczy Travel + Leisure/Fortune online reader survey conducted by Wylei, March 2015.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES FOR BUSINESS

TOP 5 OVERALL

- 1. Singapore Airlines
- Emirates —
- 3. Air New Zealand
- 4. Cathav Pacific Airways
- 5. Qatar Airways

Emirates rolls out the red carpet for businessclass travelers, with free chauffeur service to and from the airport. On board, seats come with a personal mini-bar and side table.

TOP 3 **ECONOMY**

- 1. Singapore
- 2. Air New Zealand
- 3. Virgin Atlantic

TOP 3 BUSINESS CLASS

- 1. Emirates
- 2. Singapore
- 3. Qatar

TOP 3 PREMIUM **ECONOMY**

- 1. Singapore
- 2. Virgin Atlantic
- 3. Air France

TOP 3 FIRST CLASS

- 1. Cathay Pacific
- 2. Emirates
- 3. Lufthansa

APART FROM THE REST.

MEAL SERVICE Many of its 15,000 menus are tailored to the route map. First- and business-class fliers leaving from London, for example, can have a full English breakfast.

CHIC SHOPPING KrisFlyer Spree, the airline's new online mall, means passengers have nearly 2,000 brands-from Paul Smith to Muji-at their fingertips.

CABIN UPGRADES A new premium economy class will debut on U.S. flights by the end of 2015, with custom leather seats, foldout leg rests, and 13.3-inch HD screens.

GOLD-STAR SERVICE A new customerexperience management system will soon give crew members access to passengers' travel preferences.



"TRAVEL CREATES SO MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR DISCOVERY AND GROWTH."

- Samantha Brown, Television Host and Travel Expert

"SEIZE THE TRIP" WHEN YOU THINK AARP

"aarp"



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REAL SIMPLE AND TRAVEL + LEISURE PRESENT

REP 101 YOUR PACKING-MADE-EASIER CHECKLIST

AT YOUR DESTINATION WRINKLE-FREE AND READY FOR ANY ADVENTURE.

WHAT TO PACK

- __ Go light on the clothing. Follow this formula: three tops for every bottom. (Trust us, you can get away with repeating pants or skirts.) As for footwear, limit yourself to sneakers and two pairs of shoes—one casual and one formal.
- Choose wrinkle-repellers. Blends containing nylon, Lycra, or polyester can be pulled out of your suitcase relatively unscathed. If you prefer natural fibers, go for wool or stretch cotton. Textured fabrics (ruched jersey, seersucker) and busy prints also help mask fold marks.
- Bring a just-in-case kit. Prepare for emergencies (of the wardrobe variety) by bringing Downy Wrinkle Releaser Plus (\$2 at drugstores) and Tide to Go stain remover (\$3 at drugstores).
- Keep tabs on your bag. Use a luggage tracker like LugLoc (\$70; lugloc.com) to locate your suitcase in the event that it gets lost. Also important: label your bag tag with an e-mail address, rather than a home address, so that you can be more easily contacted in transit.
- Prep your carry-on. Layers are essential for chilly airplane cabins. You'll also want a toothbrush and at least a day's worth of prescriptions in case your luggage is delayed.
- Invest in useful tech gear. The compact Fuse Universal Dual USB adapter has plugs for 150 countries and two built-in USB ports (\$30; fospower.com). The Mophie Powerstation Plus simultaneously charges multiple gadgets at four times the speed of a standard charger (\$80; mophie.com). To make a long flight more bearable, spring for noisecanceling headphones, such as Bose's QuietComfort 20i earbuds with tanglefree cords (\$300; bose.com).



HOW TO PACK

- Decide what to roll, and what to fold. If you're using a duffel, roll everything. Otherwise, reserve that technique for knits (T-shirts, light sweaters) and fold garments that have more structure (blazers and trousers).
- Get space-efficient. Packing cubes, like Eagle Creek's Pack-It Specter Cubes (from \$13; eaglecreek.com), keep swimsuits, gym clothes, delicates, and dirty laundry separated. Squeeze out all the air for extra compression.
- Use trash bags to fight wrinkles. Here's how: line the bottom of your luggage with a garbage bag; then, after you've packed, add another on top. The slippery surface keeps creases from setting.
- Arrange contents strategically, Stash footwear and other heavy items near the wheelbase; this prevents the suitcase from tipping over. Then layer in this order: packing cubes, rolled garments, folded clothes, and bulky sweaters or jackets. Leave crushables for last.
- __ Maximize every nook. Snake belts around the bag's perimeter. Stuff shoes with socks and fill the molded cups of bras with underwear (this prevents the foam from crinkling). Tuck jewelry and ties (rolled inside out) in a side pocket you can store earrings in pill cases and string delicate necklaces through drinking straws, taping the clasps to each end.





SUITCASE SMARTS

Pick the bag that's right for you.

- 1 Measure your carry-on. Remember these dimensions: 21 by 14 by 9 inches. That size is guaranteed to fit in any overhead bin. We like the hard-sided Quartermaster by Ebby Rane (\$825; ebbyrane.com), with built-in carryalls for liquids, tech gear, laundry, and more.
- 2 Know the full-size-case rules. Fourwheeled hard-sided models are bestthey're least likely to topple. Choose one that has a sturdy handle and butterflies open (for easier packing), like the Herringbone Luxe Hardside Extended Journey Spinner by Hartmann (\$399; hartmann.com) or the Victorinox Spectra 2.0 (\$380; victorinox.com).







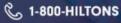
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 $/\,OCTOBER\,2015\,/\,{\rm The\,secret\,charms\,of\,Aveyron,France}\,|\,\\ {\rm The\,unexpected\,poetry\,of\,being\,in\,transit}\,|\,{\rm Autumn\,in\,Virginia}\,\\ {\rm wine\,country}\,|\,{\rm Next\text{-}generation\,artists\,and\,activists\,in\,Hong\,Kong}\,$





I had never been seduced by Pierre Soulages. His paintings fetch the highest prices at auction of any living French artist, and the current president of France has called him the greatest living painter in the world. Soulages paints largely in black, and black art had always left me cold.

But that was before I found myself one sunny morning in the Musée Soulages in the medieval town of Rodez, where the artist was born 95 years ago. The museum is a succession of five steel blocks meant to rust over time, both blending in with and sitting boldly apart from the red-gray stone of the town's centuries-old structures. Inside, windows that rise to the ceiling offer views of the town and the hills beyond.

Perched on a bench in front of a bank of windows, I came face to face with *Peinture 162 x 724 cm*, *novembre 1996*, a long, horizontal canvas. At first, it looked like much of the rest of Soulages' work: dark. "Outrenoir"—or "beyond black"—he calls the style.

I daydreamed. I waited. The light seeped from the windows through dark, translucent shades. As it changed with the movement of the sun, so did the colors of the painting. Its raised diagonal stripes of shiny onyx turned silver, then violet, then blue, and finally gold. Suddenly, Soulages' mysterious world became clear: it's all about the light. "When we look at paintings, what do we see?" Soulages once asked an interviewer. "We see light that comes from black."

That is the sort of revelation you might encounter in this place. The mesmerizing interplay of proportion and light is a fitting backdrop for 500 works by one of the 20th century's most intriguing and least understood abstract painters. It is also a perfect entrée into a fascinating part of France, for Soulages' paintings are a metaphor for Aveyron itself: starkly beautiful, rich with surprises, underappreciated by most Americans. Like the artist's austere strokes of black on canvas, Aveyron demands patience before it reveals its secrets.

My first knowledge of the region came in Paris, where I've lived for 13 years. The Aveyronnais, as its inhabitants are called, moved to the capital en masse in the 1850s and made their mark in the food industry and as retailers of coal and wine. They still own or run thousands of brasseries and cafés in and around Paris. The Costes brothers, who run the Costes restaurant-hotel empire, come from Aveyron.

And I knew, of course, of the region's long tradition of artisanal expertise: The caves of Roquefort-sur-Soulzon produce one of the most famous cheeses in the world; Aubrac cows produce some of France's best beef. Craftsmen in Laguiole still forge their famous



knives by hand; glove makers in Millau hand-sew gloves with the same care they did a century ago.

Yet Aveyron itself is arguably the least known part of France: sparsely populated, hard to get to, and little touched by globalization, even though it is one of the largest French departments (more than twice the size of Rhode Island). Scarred by invasions, wars, and conquests, it was for centuries a poor farming region that even the Industrial Revolution could not transform. Those who didn't leave were determined both to preserve what they had and to keep away outsiders. Even today, no high-speed train goes to Aveyron.

This has allowed the region to retain the quiet beauty of another era. Part of southern France's Massif Central, a huge elevation formed by fire and ice, it stretches over a varied landscape of plunging ravines, volcanic moonscapes, rolling hillsides, hot springs, peat bogs, deep caves, and farm pastures in a spectrum of green.

Visitors step in and out of historical and geological eras: Gallo-Roman ruins, castles straight out of fairy tales, 13th-century walled towns, and some of the finest Romanesque architecture in Europe. It is a land not of large cities but of small villages—some atop hills, others glued to hillsides. This is not Provence or the Loire Valley, where house after house is inhabited by retired Britons, where village squares have been prettified into banality and weekend food markets mean traffic jams.







In Aveyron you can wind your way along narrow back roads—some barely wider than one lane, forcing motorists into languid slow motion—and trace an indulgently leisurely path through seldom-visited villages and countryside. And by the end, you will feel as if you own this swath of France.

My husband and I started the trip in Rodez, the department's largest town with about 24,000 inhabitants. After the opening of the Soulages Museum in May 2014, 300,000 people visited it in the first year. And they now have more reasons to linger: The museum's bistro is by culinary giant Michel Bras, Aveyron's other famous native son, who has a Michelin-starred restaurant in the region. It's a bright, airy space where the servers wear black and white in homage to the painter. And there's Café Le Broussy, with its classic Art Nouveau architecture, on the cathedral square.

The pink sandstone cathedral, darkened by the ravages of time, is almost as tall as Notre Dame, in Paris. Begun in the 1200s and finished three centuries later, it has a Gothic bell tower that rises almost 300 feet and is topped by a sculpture of the Virgin Mary.

Nearby is the Musée Fenaille, which has 300,000-year-old fossils, along with relics from the Gallo-Roman era, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. I was struck by the 17 carved-stone menhirs: the largest collection in Europe of the first sculptural representations of the human form. One of the menhirs, the mysterious mouthless Lady of St. Sernin, has hands, feet, dots for eyes, small circles for breasts, two necklaces, and markings on her cheeks that could be scars or tattoos.

We seemed to be the only foreigners at the Sunday morning market in Marcillac, in Aveyron's wine country. Locals were passing the time in outdoor cafés and buying food for Sunday lunch. Butchers sold cured ham in huge blocks and half-inch-thick slabs.

Bakers beckoned with free samples of fouace, a round, heavy brioche perfumed with orange; farmers sold homemade cheeses and raw milk in bulk. The smell of deep-fried farçous, a concoction of bread, eggs, onions, milk, chard, garlic, and parsley, filled the air.

Much of Aveyron is protected land—if not by regional parks, then by conservative farmers whose bounty supplies the local tables and markets. You pass their pastures as you go from village to village. Elsewhere, ravines and rivers offer hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, rope swinging, and hang gliding. In the early morning, heavy fog clings to the foothills, wrapping the landscape in mystery; at night, the pollution-free skies are so clear that stargazers can see the contours of the Milky Way.

Sitting high above the Dourdou River is the walled village of Conques, a medieval jumble of small houses, a few narrow lanes, and fewer than 300 people. Conques' main draw is the Abbaye Ste.-Foy, a

(Continued on page 188)





HERE, THERE, EVERY WHERE

IN HIS NEW BOOK, *JET LAG*, PHOTOGRAPHER **CHIEN-CHI CHANG** CAPTURES THE SENSE
OF DISLOCATION EVERY TRAVELER KNOWS. AND AS **WALTER KIRN** SUGGESTS,
THERE'S HUMANITY IN THE PLACES BETWEEN PLACES, IF ONLY YOU OPEN YOUR EYES.





LONDON HEATHROW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT







Clockwise from above: SCENES FROM VENICE MARCO POLO AIRPORT, TED STEVENS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PERPIGNAN SUD DE FRANCE AIR-PORT AND VIENNA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



I AM IN TRANSIT. NO ONE KNOWS ME HERE. The corridors are long and brightly lit, guarded by frowning agents at crowded checkpoints who put me on the defensive with their eyes. All around me are signs in a global, symbolic language that relies on stick figures and arrows. I'm hungry, but I don't know for which meal. Is it late? Is it early? Irrelevant. It's now. I

global, symbolic language that relies on stick figures and arrows. I'm hungry, but I don't know for which meal. Is it late? Is it early? Irrelevant. It's now. I feel estranged and suspended, as if in a dream, but I am also anonymous and free, gliding smoothly on a moving walkway toward yet another sliding door.

Wherever you're going in the world these days, you have to pass through limbo on the way. You have to pass through those places that aren't quite places—taxi lines, duty-free shops, shuttle buses, concierge desks, baggage carousels—that exist at the boundaries between "here" and "there." They can be invisible, these spots, and easy to disregard as you rush on, but they have evolved in recent years into a complex automated ecosystem that's worthy of attention and admiration. A proliferation of shops and restaurants masks the hard edges of these feats of infrastructure, these marvels of streamlined engineering. A computerized kiosk dispenses your ticket, an electronic scanner reads your passport, a miniature printer spits out your baggage labels. You are a stream of data, not just a person. From the moment you set off on your journey, your movements are tracked, your payments processed, your customer profile updated and filed.

They are disorienting, these placeless places, but after a while you feel at home in them. You start to adapt to their protocols, their culture. Cards with magnetic stripes are a big part of things. You, the secretly distrusted traveler, are continually proving your identity, pushing against some vague presumption of guilt in an environment thick with regulations and monitored by people you'll never meet. The key is remaining inconspicuous. The key is raising no alarms. You feel like a spy or a smuggler, you can't help it, and in your luggage are many zippered pockets concealing various critical supplies. Documents. Devices. Wads of currency. It is important to think ahead because, once you get here, it's hard to think at all. Follow the arrows. Remove your belt and shoes.

There is, if you pay attention to these transition zones—if you view them as





Clockwise from above: A TV, A DOOR HANGER, AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER AT A HOTEL IN YANGON, MYANMAR; THE HOTEL HERSHEY, IN HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA.



destinations in their own right, not merely bridges to something up ahead—a mysterious sense of erasure in the air, a feeling of having been preceded by busy hands whose job is to cleanse each space that you step into of the auras of those who went before you. The guest who checked out of the room you're checking in to is impossible for you to picture, as you will be to the guest who follows you. Still, on occasion, you stumble across traces of your ghostly counterparts: a half-finished puzzle in an in-flight magazine; an odd, foreign coin in the top drawer of a nightstand; a pair of dark glasses in the glove box of a rental car. These clues remind you that the in-between world is teeming with personal and social drama and is neither soulless nor sterile, as some might assert. The emotional energies here are under the surface, carefully channeled by systems and machines, but their presence creates a charged vibrational field that you can tune in to if you know the wavelength.

I've always been drawn to scenes of dislocation, and the frontiers between everywhere and nowhere. As a kid in the early 1970s, I used to go with a pal from my small town to visit the Minneapolis–St. Paul Airport. In that innocent era of low security, you could enter the terminals without a ticket and sit in a glass-walled observation gallery that overlooked the runways. The taxiing planes and the tiny human figures that stood on the tarmac directing and unloading them were joined in a highly choreographed dance whose significance seemed elusive yet enormous. Here, in this realm of systems and machines where people seemed secondary and slightly faceless, I perceived the architecture of change itself. Every drama needs a stage, and the function of this stage was to keep things moving, to speed the flow of materials and beings that underlies the course of history. I wanted to join that flow someday, to let it carry me away—away from myself and out into the world.

I wanted to be something I couldn't name yet.

A passenger. A traveler. A spy. One step behind you, wherever you may be.

Jet Lag is out this month from Hatje Cantz. Photographs courtesy of Magnum Photos.





guest room

was impeccably tasteful, with its hand-carved mahogany bed dressed in crisp white Italian linens. Outside, gray mist hovered over green hills laced with vineyards, painting a portrait that could rival any view in Tuscany.

But this wasn't Italy, it was Virginia, and my hotel was the passion project of 31-year-old Eric Trump, the president of his namesake winery just next door. As a writer with a world of wine country options to choose from, I was still a little surprised I was here. Virginia was a place I had put on the back burner. I'd do a tasting of its wines up in New York and find them iffy (and, full disclosure, sometimes they still are). But the buzz kept building, and savvy insiders had been telling me good things. I finally decided to drive down and experience the destination for myself.

The logical place for me to start was with the most famous (not to mention controversial) name in the bunch. I spent a day sampling Trump's standout Chardonnays and a sparkling 2009 blanc de blancs, full of pure apple flavors, all made by the ambitious young winemaker Jonathan Wheeler, and it was clear that the state had arrived. "Virginia is on the warpath," says Eric, Donald Trump's son and the force behind the 1,300-acre estate. "We have 275 wineries, and are finally winning gold medals in competitions."

The crusade to put Virginia on the wine map stretches back to Thomas Jefferson. For years, aspiring vintners planted classic European varieties like Viognier, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon. But loving a craft doesn't mean you're necessarily good at it, and mastering the *terroir*—humid summers, rocky earth in one place and clay in another, not to mention the occasional hurricane—took time and effort. (Burgundy, for example, has had plenty of time to figure out the elements.) During the past few decades, a handful of talented winemakers—two Italian expats, in particular—have been experimenting with various grapes in various soils, and slowly gaining ground. Today, thanks to these veterans, their pupils, and some talented newcomers, there's now a critical mass of excellent wines being made. The action is centered in two places: the Monticello American Viticultural Area (where the Trump Winery is located, less than three hours southwest of Washington, D.C.) and the northern Virginia region (roughly an hour from the capital).

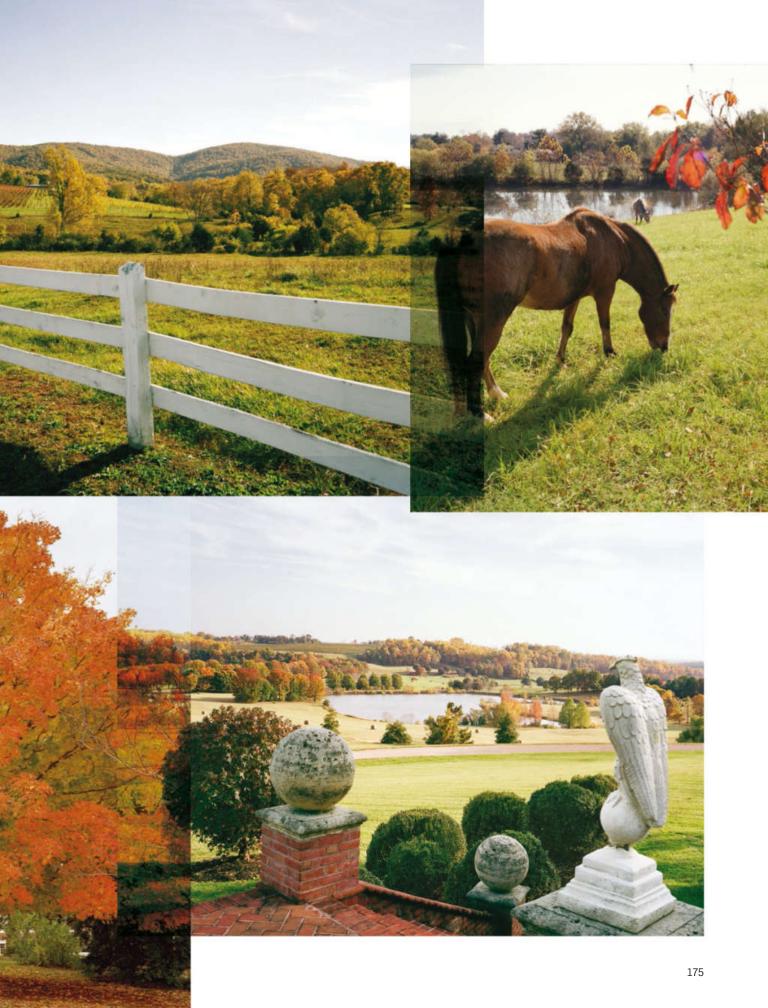
Much of the success is a testament to the area's openness to outsiders. In 2011, the Trumps began buying up pieces of Patricia Kluge's bankrupt estate, and got it for a \$16 million song. They poured even more resourc-

es into the already state-of-the-art facilities. (Kluge herself had short-lived success with her own wines.) This spring, her 26,000-square-foot mansion—done in a lavish, neo-Georgian style by the legendary interior designer David Easton in 1985—was converted into Albemarle Estate, a 10-suite boutique hotel. It has a pool, a movie theater, and a poker room,

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Barboursville Vineyards,
a standout producer in the
Monticello wine-growing
region; horses on the road to
Monticello; a view of Trump
Winery, a 1,300-acre property
on the outskirts of Charlottesville, from Albemarle
Estate; autumn at Thomas
Jefferson's Monticello.







among other amenities, all left over from the Kluge days and newly restored. And yet the place doesn't feel stuffy— just like the region itself.

Virginia's ace in the hole has always been its lush terrain, good for growing almost anything and lovely to

look at. And since vineyards are still a relatively rare sight, the scenery isn't stuck on repeat. This is horse country, and the landscape provides subtle variations on the rural theme, making it ideal for a driving trip. I kept track of the quirky road names—Possum Hollow Lane, Pinch 'Em Slyly Place—as I drove around, surrounded by white fences, with the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains for a backdrop. "We have the natural beauty, plus that Southern charm," said Kerry Woolard, the general manager of the Trump project. "People talk about 'sense of place,' and that's definitely here."

Part of that power derives from the destination's role in American history and, indeed, American wine history. When Woolard mentioned that Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's grand domed mansion, was only seven miles north, I set off to discover a bit about our country's first legitimate oenophile. A notorious bon vivant and big spender, Jefferson returned from Paris in 1789 carting 680 bottles of the best European vintages. He eventually tried (and failed) to grow grapes at Monticello.

Gabriele Rausse, an Italian by birth and the director of Monticello's gardens and grounds, walked me around the stately, Neoclassical landmark, even taking me to Jefferson's original small brick cellar. "He didn't live long enough to finish all his experiments," Rausse said, a little wistfully, as we stood on a hillside next to Sangiovese vines growing right where Jefferson had planted the same grape.

Rausse is one of the founders of the modern-day Virginia wine movement. He immigrated here in the 1970s, becoming the head of Barbours-ville Vineyards, a 1,000-acre estate just 20 miles from Monticello. Back then, his experiments with classic European grapes like Riesling met with skepticism from locals ("people said the future was in tobacco," he recalls, laughing). But the naysayers were proven wrong. Barboursville is currently one of the state's top-tier producers, and sells about 38,000 cases a year. Rausse has long since left, and Barboursville is now in the hands of the equally charming Luca Paschina, a fellow Italian who has one of the best long-term track records in Virginia. All of Paschina's wines are excellent, but you don't want to miss his ethereal Vermentino Reserve and elegant Cabernet Franc Reserve, the latter made from the area's most reliable, utility-infielder red grape.

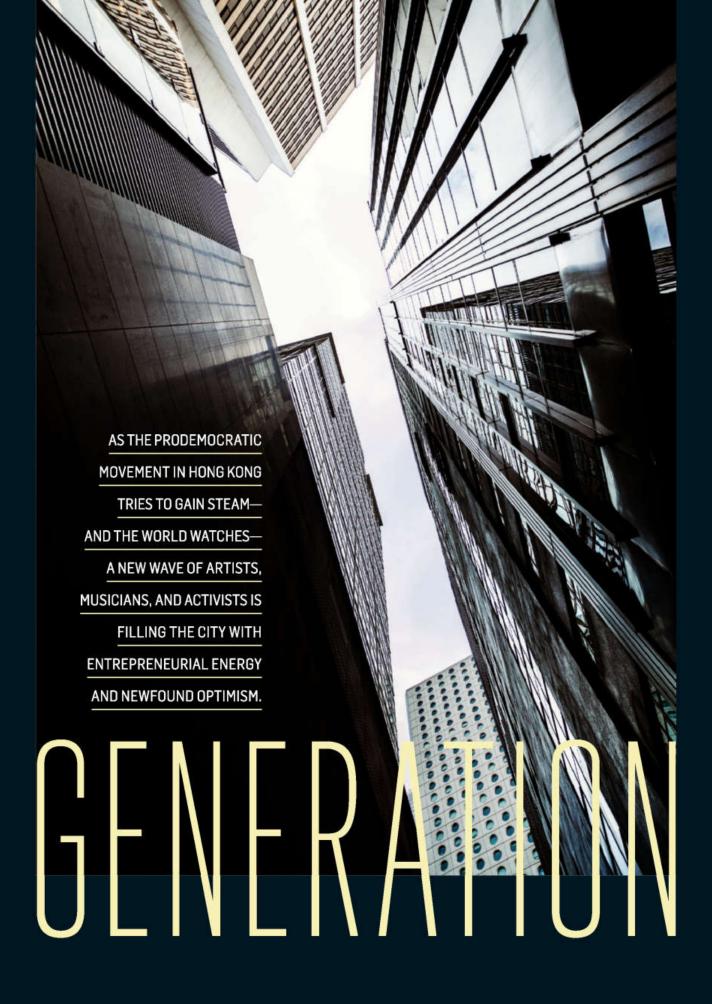
At Library 1821, Barboursville's weekend tasting room, which is an enclosed neo-Palladian loggia, Paschina and I snacked on house-made bresaola and sipped his high-end Bordeaux blend, Octagon, while discussing the new generation. "Due to the presence of talented young wine-makers from the West Coast, Europe, and South Africa, there are better wines being produced in Virginia," he said. Like many regions outside of sunny California, Virginia has real vintage variation because of its climate, and it's important to pay attention to those numbers on the label: 2010, 2013, and 2014 are noteworthy years. "Two out of ten vintages (Continued on page 194)

THE DETAILS T+L's guide to the best of Virginia wine country, page 187

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
The dining room at Albemarle
Estate; vineyards at
Barboursville; a farm stand
outside Charlottesville; a
country road in the Monticello
wine-growing region.









FOR ME, AS FOR SO MANY BEFORE ME, HONG KONG HAS BEEN

a haven. This destiny was written into its name, a rough transliteration of the Cantonese words for "fragrant harbor." Safety smelled to me like stinky durian and sweet lychee, exhaust and sweat. I can still feel the backs of my eight-year-old legs sticking to the vinyl seat of a double-decker bus (upstairs, always). I can still hear my relatives' voices, their rapid-fire Cantonese swelling and ebbing as they processed the rises and falls of the day's stock prices.

This was, in a manner of speaking, home: my parents had immigrated to America from Hong Kong in their twenties, and I was born in California. They carried with them their culture—hence my bowl-cut hair, my fried-rice-and-pot-sticker lunches, my sense of shame. But whenever we returned to this city of hybrids, of Cantonese movies and English street signs, I felt less alien, my head just another black-topped dome in a sea of them. I've visited to see family, to eat, to imagine what it would be like to live here all the time, to make my own memories.

Neither imagination nor memory, though, are among Hong Kong's most prized virtues. Instead, natives pride themselves on their pragmatism, and one thing that I inherited from my parents, along with the permanent identity card that officially binds me to this city, is an ethic driven by practicality. You can't survive on nostalgia.

Certainly neither imagination nor memory allowed me to dream that, nearly 20 years after the British returned sovereignty over Hong Kong to China, the streets would heave with prodemocratic protesters calling for universal suffrage. A year after the Umbrella Movement unfurled in such spectacular fashion, most of the cameras—and the protesters—have gone home. I wanted to

see whether the demonstrations had left any mark.

What I found was a place undergoing a remarkable transformation. Hong Kong today is a city that, though long defined by financial profit, increasingly questions what constitutes a truly good life. Memory matters more than ever: Hong Kong's unique heritage continues to define how its people see themselves. Marks of the British—roads named for royals, colonial architecture—endure; the Star Ferry, still just 30 cents to cross Victoria Harbour, offers as wondrous a view as ever. Yet go where the locals go, and you'll find that imagination is constructing the future, in restaurants and tattoo ink, organic produce and song. And many Hong Kongers are learning to cultivate something that can't be bought or sold with traditional currency: optimism.

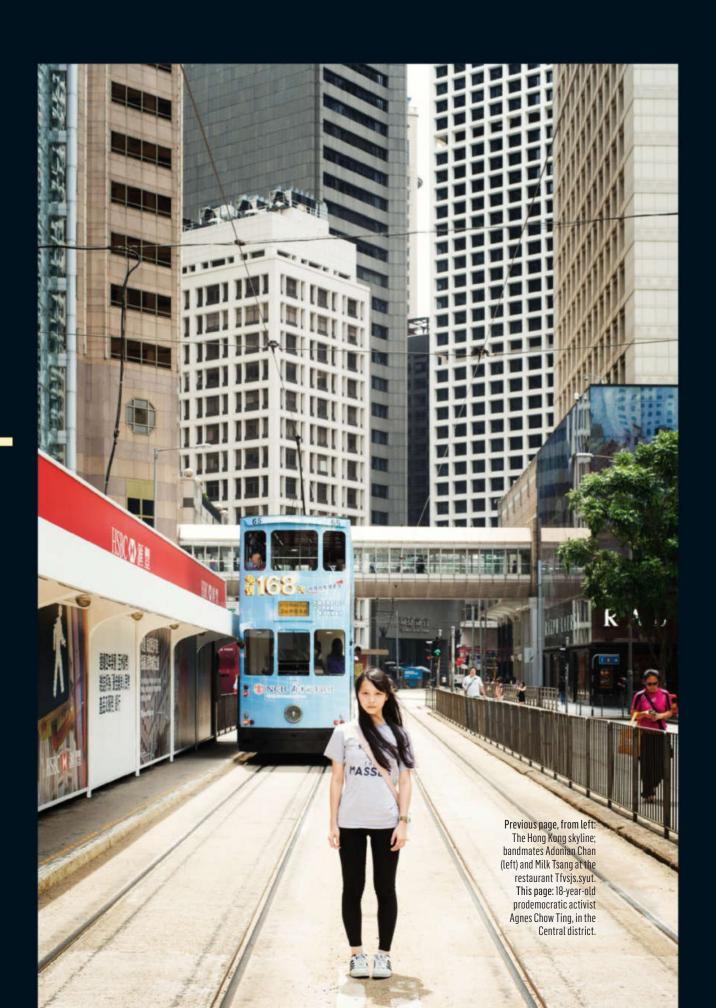
"FREE HONG KONG! FREE HONG KONG!"

On a warm summer night, the chants, in English, crept through my window in the traditionally working-class Kowloon neighborhood of Mongkok. I was staying with family, not far from where my parents grew up. Most tourists don't visit this area, but if they did, they'd find the Bird Garden, where old men bring their caged thrushes and warblers, as well as the city's main flower market. Bougainvillea and bamboo fill storefront after storefront, and rolling carts stacked with orchids crowd the sidewalks.

At night, vendors wrap the displays in green netting. Downstairs, I found the floral purples and magentas replaced by the red of soccer jerseys worn by hundreds of delighted fans. A week after winning a World Cup qualifier against Bhutan, Hong Kong had triumphed again, this time over the Maldives. Both matches took place at Mongkok Stadium, about half a mile from the intersection of Nathan Road and Argyle Street, one of the sites where prodemocratic protesters clashed with police last fall.

The wins weren't the big news. (If Hong Kong is a soccer minnow, the Maldives are a guppy and Bhutan, plankton.) Hong Kong doesn't have its own anthem, so during the raising of its flag—a white bauhinia blossom on a red background—China's plays. The crowd had booed.

Such bursts of anti-Beijing sentiment reflect enduring popular frustration in the wake of the Umbrella Movement, which has produced no democratic reform. "There are lots of hopeless things every day, especially with the political aspect," prodemocratic activist Agnes Chow Ting said when





we met for coffee in Wan Chai, the cleaned-up Hong Kong Island neighborhood that was once the fictional Suzie Wong's stomping ground. Chow, an earnest 18-year-old with long hair and a touch of a lisp, once served as a spokeswoman for Scholarism, the most prominent prodemocratic student group, and is in her second year of university. "We see how the central and local governments neglect opinions about democracy for Hong Kong people," she continued.

Like the soccer fans, Chow has channeled her energies into alternative forms of protest. She cohosts a Tuesday night radio show that purportedly focuses on Japanese culture, especially pop music and animation. "There are hidden messages in animation, and I try to link them to the issues," she explained. Take a manga series called *Attack on Titan*. "It's about giants trying to break down walls and eat people living in a city," she said. The corners of her mouth edged up in a slight smile. "People may imagine the central government as the giants."

It's this kind of imagination that gives birth to a character like *Umbrella Man*. On October 5, 2014, protesters massed in the Admiralty neighborhood by the Central Government Complex, a hulking steel-and-glass office tower. They had been coming by the thousands, after class and after work, for nearly a week. On this night, a precarious 10-foot-tall figure made of wood blocks joined them. His upraised right arm held aloft a yellow umbrella. (Though the protest site has become something of a tourist attraction, there's little left to see.)

Umbrella Man was the creation of artists Tong Sin Chun and Milk Tsang. I met Tsang, 23, in Ngau Tau Kok, an up-and-coming section of Kowloon filled with warehouses. As we walked, he said he didn't want to talk about the sculpture, and expressed sadness at the current state of affairs. "You talk to someone on the street about the situation—they just want to be in their own little world," Tsang noted, as we took an elevator up to a restaurant on the 10th floor of an old factory. "I don't see any hope."

Tsang's statement puzzled me. His varied portfolio, which includes sculpture, painting, and film production, pointed to Hong Kong's entrepreneurial promise. Tsang is a guitarist in a rock band called Tf.vs.js, and the restaurant, called Tfvsjs.syut, is run by four of his five bandmates. Bassist and chef Sean Yeun, who oversees an eclectic Europeaninspired menu that incorporates local ingredients like Chinese yam, said hello. Guitarist and co-owner Adonian Chan, who doubles as a graphic designer, joined us for dinner. He echoed Tsang's glum commentary. "I've shifted focus," he said, as we picked at spaghetti carbonara and a roasted duck leg with a sauce of Guinness and puréed beets.

"What we can change is within ourselves—and then within a small community."

With its big casement windows, bare concrete floors, and mismatched chairs, Tfvsjs.syut has the marks of a hipster hangout. The place draws young creatives, who, between meals, participate in Chan's curated slate of activities, ranging from literary readings to jam sessions. In a nearby studio, Chan works on Chinese typography; one of his most successful typefaces, inspired by Hong Kong's midcentury neon signage, has been featured, ironically, in a government-funded project. "The government is always promoting revitalization," Chan said, dismissing long-gestating plans to turn this part of eastern Kowloon into a business district. "We believe the people can do it by themselves."

Below: Forager Wanda Huang at her family farm on the island of Cheung Chau. Opposite: Nic Tse at his Mei Wah Tattoo Parlor, in Kowloon.





Above: Doryun
Chong, chief
curator of M+, a new
museum for visual
culture, at the
museum headquarters in Tsim Sha
Tsui. Opposite:
Cantonese opera
actress Angel
Leung, who performs at the Yau Ma
Tei Theatre.

When I expressed surprise at how Tsang and Chan skip freely among mediums, they seemed surprised that I was surprised. "For me, it's all art, not different things," Tsang said.

This fluidity has also struck Lars Nittve and Doryun Chong, executive director and chief curator, respectively, at M+, a new visual culture museum being built in the West Kowloon Cultural District. Nittve was founding director of the Tate Modern in London, and Chong came to Hong Kong from New York's MoMA. Nowhere else have they seen this kind of crossover. "Many of the best artists are also the best graphic designers and architects," Nittve explained, as we sat in the sleek offices of M+ on the 29th floor of a tower in Tsim Sha Tsui, with the cultural district, now a construction site, below us. With its embrace of architecture, film, and design, M+ is positioned to capture this new local dynamic with programs that are not limited to what's typically classified as contemporary art. "These are Western

constructs, and we are not in the West."

Of course, Hong Kong has become a global art magnet, with the Art Basel fair drawing thousands of exhibitors and collectors each spring. But while Basel has injected energy into the local scene, most of what happens is not indigenous. The wave of protest-related art, including Tsang's sculpture, on the other hand? "It was a spontaneous expression of maybe dormant desire. It felt like a special moment of defining the self for a young generation," Chong said. "It's uniquely Hong Kong."

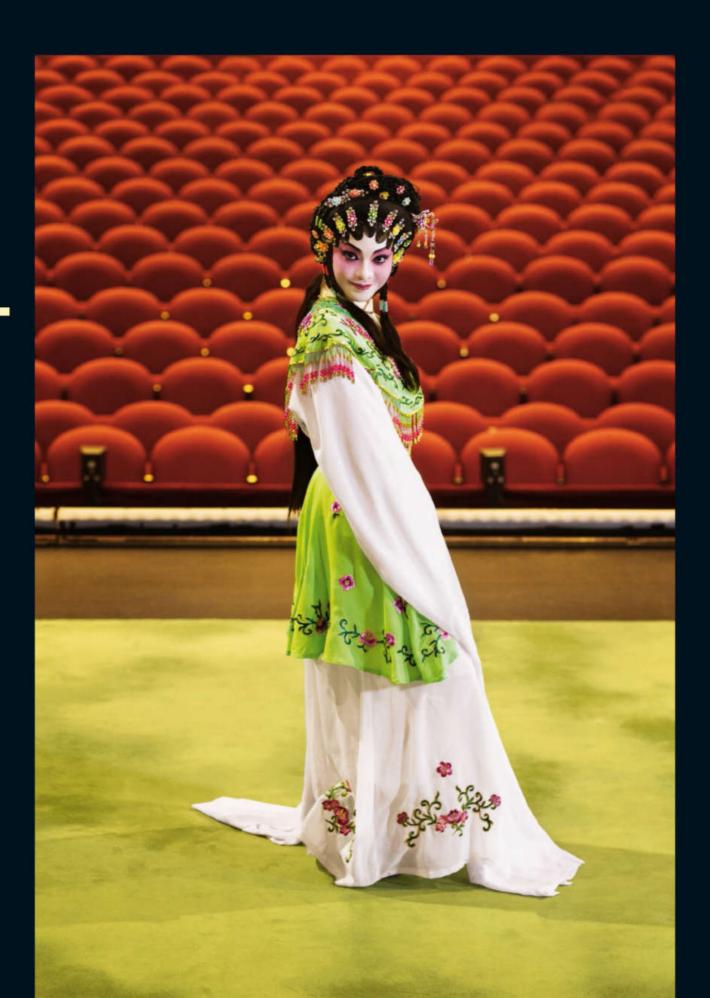
THE MORE TIME I SPENT WITH HONG KONGERS, THE MORE I realized that politics was less a cause than an effect of a broader reevaluation.

"These days, there's definitely a stronger sense of community and an emphasis on returning to life's basics," said Nic Tse, proprietor of the Mei Wah Tattoo Parlor, in Kowloon. In some ways Tse's shop, located on the gritty northern section of Shanghai Street, is quintessentially Hong Kong, importing ideas from everywhere. Climb the narrow steps of the old tenement building to his fourth-floor studio, and you'll likely find a prominent tattoo artist visiting from Europe or America. You'll also see reflections of the changing ethos in what they're asked to ink. Tse recently tattooed the English word COURAGE on the wrist of a local activist.

More and more, Hong Kongers are also concerned with reconnecting, in modern ways, with heritage and history. Take Wanda Huang, whose family has a small farm on the carless island of Cheung Chau, a 35-minute ferry ride from Central. There's almost always something to harvest among their 40 types of fruit trees. But what draws visitors to the farm are the educational programs that Wanda runs. She teaches a greener, more sustainable way of living—one that honors the herb-infused healing traditions of traditional Chinese medicine.

Huang, whose father is a Chinese herbalist, is one of Hong Kong's only professional foragers. (Though the city is often perceived as an urban jungle, 70% of its land mass is actually green space.) "These abandoned farmlands, beaches, and woods contain an abundance of wild ingredients," Huang told me. "Wild ginger flower. Different types of seaweed. Bamboo shoot." She's trying to domesticate some of these plants; what she can't, she often forages for local chefs, including Uwe Opocensky of the Mandarin Oriental. "There's a sea of wild watercress next to Wanda's farm," says (Continued on page 192)

THE DETAILS Restaurants, venues, and more, page 187



the Details/

Our guide to this month's featured destinations, including the best places to eat, sleep, and explore.



IOSHUA TREE. CALIFORNIA

(A Desert Blooms **p. 63**)

HOTELS

Joshua Tree Highlands Houses

Four private vacation rentals near the park, all with mountain views. ioshuatreehiahlandshouse.com: two-night stays from \$500.

Joshua Tree Inn Country-rock legend Gram Parsons famously died in room No. 8 of this cheap and cheerful spot with 11 rooms and a courtyard strung with fairy lights. Joshua Tree; joshuatreeinn.com; doubles from \$89.

Mojave Sands Motel This ecochic five-room inn-on the grounds of the 1950s Oleander Motelis an upscale hideaway in the middle of the desert. Joshua Tree; mojavesandsatjoshuatree.com; doubles from \$200.

RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

Crossroads Café A popular lunch counter known for its incredible corn bread and burgers. Joshua Tree; crossroadscafeitree. com; entrées \$8-\$14.

Natural Sisters Café The patio of this vegetarian spot is filled with cool characters digging in to salads and smoothies. Joshua Tree; thenaturalsisterscafe.com.

Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace Come for delicious barbecue cooked on a mesquite grill; stay for the live music. pappyand harriets.com; entrées \$6-\$30.

SHOPS

The End A costume designer who worked on 90210 owns this well-curated shop, filled with vintage clothing, art, and more. Yucca Valley; theendyuccavalley. tumblr.com.

Grateful Desert Herb Shoppe & EcoMarket Residents and tourists alike come here to stock up on handcrafted lotions and tinctures. Joshua Tree: aratefuldesert com

Hoof & the Horn A husbandand-wife team oversees this Americana-themed clothing shop. Yucca Valley; hoofandthehorn.com.

GALLERIES

A-Z West Call ahead before visiting artist Andrea Zittel's 35-acre experimental art complex hours are limited. Joshua Tree; zittel.org.

Noah Purifoy Foundation This outdoor museum covers the work of the late assemblage artist, who spent his final years in the Mojave. Joshua Tree; noahpurifoy.com. **Taylor Junction** Gallerist Terry Taylor-Castillo showcases a rotating roster of local talent. 61732 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree; 760-974-9165.

ACTIVITIES

Joshua Tree National Park No. trip is complete without a visit to this 800.000-acre park, home to the distinctive, Seussian flora for which the area is named. nps.gov.

PECKHAM, LONDON

(On the Fast Track p. 88)

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Artusi Order the tagliatelle with ox-cheek ragù at this refreshingly unfussy Italian spot. artusi. co.uk; entrées \$16-\$24.

Bar Story Tucked in an arch under the Overground railway, it's one of Peckham's best cocktail bars. barstory.co.uk. Begging Bowl The Thai dishes at this Bellenden Road restaurant stand out for their authenticity. thebeggingbowl.co.uk; small plates \$10-\$23.

factory is now home to fringe theater productions, rooftop movie screenings, and a great café. thebusseybuilding.org.uk. Frank's Café The pop-up that put Peckham on the map. It transforms the roof of a parking garage into a buzzy bar for four months each year. frankscafe.org.uk.

Bussey Building A former

Ganapati South Indian food by one of Peckham's culinary pioneers. ganapatirestaurant. com; entrées \$12-\$23.

The Gowlett An unpretentious pub with impressive stonebaked pizza. thegowlett.com.

Peckham Springs The bar attached to Sassoon Gallery is a favorite with Peckham's young creative crowd. peckham springs.co.uk.



SOUTHERN MOROCCO

(Seeking Shelter **p. 102**)

GETTING THERE

The most convenient airport is in Agadir, easily reached via Casablanca. You can skip the plane connection, rent a car, and drive five hours south.

Dar Infiane Tata A spectacular desert oasis with views of redrock formations. darinfiane.com; doubles from \$101.

GUIDES & RESOURCES

Bart Deseyn The Belgian photographer, who knows the region well, offers an online visual record of Moroccan granaries. assarag.net.

Hassan Idfath This Berberspeaking guide brings a tireless enthusiasm to his custom-tailored itineraries. hassanidfath.com.

Salima Naji The architect's website has a comprehensive list of restoration projects worth visiting. salimanaji.org.





AVEYRON, FRANCE

(La France Profonde **p. 158**)

HOTELS

Le Mas de Rigoulac A charming B&B with a pool near Laguiole in an 1860s farmhouse. *La Terrisse*; *lemasderigoulac.fr*; *doubles from* \$136.

Mercure Rodez Cathédrale

Comfortable rooms, excellent service, and a stunning Art Deco café—steps from the Musée Soulages and Rodez Cathedral. mercure.com; doubles from \$98.

Moulin de Cambelong Hotel and Michelin-starred restaurant overlooking the Dourdou River. Conques; moulindecambelong. com; doubles from \$207.

RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

Chez Colette What was once an old barn is now what locals consider their best-kept secret. The combo to order: a glass of red wine and the oyster-mushroom flan. *Cassuéjouls*; 33-5-65-44-33-71; prix fixe from \$18.

Chez Marinette Go for traditional Aveyronnais dishes like *aligot* and the most spectacular roast chicken you've yet to try. *Le Fel; 33-5-65-44-52-37; prix fixe from \$22.*

Le Suquet Sébastien Bras, son of famed chef Michel Bras, has been running his dad's hyper-seasonal

restaurant since 2009. Laguiole; bras.fr; tasting menus from \$149.

MUSEUMS

Musée Fenaille The exhibits include more than 1,100 local artifacts—stretching back some 300,000 years. *Rodez; musee-fenaille.grand-rodez.com.*Musée Soulages Architecturally stunning repository of 500 works by Pierre Soulages—plus the terrific Café Bras. *Rodez; musee-soulages.grand-rodez.com.*

SIGHTS

Abbaye Ste.-Foy de Conques

The magnificent Romanesque church and abbey founded in the 12th century is an important stop on the medieval pilgrimage route, thanks to its unusual relics. *mondaye.com*.

Millau Viaduct This bridge on the A75 highway (between Clermont-Ferrand and Béziers) is considered to be the Pont du Gard of the 21st century. *leviaducdemillau.com*.

Cathédral Notre-Dame de Rodez One of the most imposing

Rodez One of the most imposing Gothic cathedrals in the south of France, constructed entirely in pink sandstone.

SHOPS

La Coutellerie de Laguiole Honoré Durand Part museum, part workshop, the store explores the artistry of worldrenowned Laguiole knives. layole.com.

Maison Fabre The eponymous family has been making couture gloves and other leather goods in Millau since 1924. *maisonfabre.com*.

Roquefort Carles Delphine Carles still uses the secret family recipe for handmade Roquefort cheese that her grandfather François Carles originated in 1927. roquefort-carles.fr.

O FOR MORE PLACES TO EAT, SHOP, AND STAY IN AVEYRON, VISIT TANDL.ME/AVEYRON.

VIRGINIA WINE COUNTRY

(A Very Good Year p. 172)

HOTELS

Albemarle Estate The Trump family's new hotel, set in the former Kluge mansion. Charlottesville; trumphotelcollection.com; doubles from \$499.

Clifton Inn A gracious Relais & Châteaux property spread out over 100 acres near Charlottesville; perks include a pool and complimentary afternoon tea. clifton-inn.com; doubles from \$269.

Keswick Hall This Italianate mansion on a 60-acre spread is the area's premier hotel and golf resort. Charlottesville; keswick.com; doubles from \$359. **Salamander Resort & Spa** A two-year-old, 168-room contemporary resort in Middleburg with equestrian facilities on site. salamanderresort.com; doubles from \$495.

RESTAURANTS

Ace Biscuit & Barbecue A barbecue joint frequented by the UVA crowd; don't miss the build-your-own breakfast biscuits, topped with ingredients like fried green tomatoes and pimento cheese. Charlottesville; acebiscuitandbarbecue.com; dishes \$6-\$8.

Alley Light Done up like a speakeasy, with a hidden entrance and no sign, it serves French food that is simple but always well executed. *Charlottesville*; alleylight.com; small plates \$7–\$14.

Ivy Inn A white-tablecloth New American restaurant with a surprisingly affordable wine list. *Charlottesville; ivyinnrestaurant.com; entrées \$25–34.*

Lampo Neapolitan

Pizzeria This popular newcomer run by four friends serves impeccable pies. Charlottesville; lampo pizza.com; pizzas \$9-\$15.

Public Fish & Oyster Try
the corvina in umami broth at
this lively seafood spot helmed
by chef Donnie Glass. Charlottesville;

publicfo.com; entrées \$18–\$30.

WINERIES

Barboursville Vineyards Try the current releases for \$7 in the Tuscan Tasting Room, or pay \$20 to sip older vintages in the weekends-only Library 1821. bbvwine.com.

Linden Vineyards Call to schedule a tour—and don't leave without trying the Cabernet Sauvignon-based Hardscrabble. *lindenvineyards.com*.

Michael Shaps Wineworks This off-the-beatentrack winery pours both Virginia and Burgundy bottlings. Charlottesville; michaelshapswines.com. RdV Vineyards The chic and welcoming winery pours its two super-premium wines in an intimate salon for \$50—which also gets you a 90-minute guided tour of the grounds. Delaplane; rdvineyards.com.

Trump Winery Trump's Chardonnay, Viognier, and sparkling wines are the standouts at the tasting room, where six wines run just \$10. *Charlottesville; trumpwinery.com.*



HONG KONG

(Generation HK **p. 178**)

HOTELS

Hullett House Once the Royal Marine Police headquarters, this boutique hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui fuses elegant colonial-era architecture with top-notch service and modern comforts. hulletthouse. com: doubles from \$645.

The Salisbury—YMCA of Hong Kong The famed Peninsula's unexpectedly comfortable nextdoor neighbor is arguably the best

the Details

HONG KONG

(continued)

deal in town. All rooms were recently renovated, and some offer spectacular harbor views. ymcahk. org.hk; doubles from \$184.

ART & CULTURE

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

An arts and design complex with nine floors of studios, showrooms, a handful of shops, and a teahouse. jccac.org.hk.

Osage Art Foundation A wellregarded gallery with shows that seek to foster up-and-coming local talent, oaf.cc.

Walk in Hong Kong Guide Paul Chan takes guests deep into the history, culture, and politics of Hong Kong's diverse neighborhoods, walkin.hk: tours from \$65 per person.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre At this refurbished Art Deco theater, young singers perform Cantonese opera

several times a week. hkbarwovmt. com; tickets from \$9.

Yim Yeung Tin Singing Parlor

Kitschy and relentlessly old-school, this nightspot features pop standards and no pretense. 49-51 Temple St., Yau Ma Tei; \$3 cover.

RESTAURANTS

FINDS It stands for Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, which inspire award-winning chef Jaakko Sorsa at the city's only Nordic restaurant. finds.com.hk; tasting menus from \$64.

Tfvsjs.syut A musician-run hangout with a European-inspired menu in a gritty, industrial building in Kowloon East. Gee Luen Factory Building, Unit B, 10th floor, 316-318 Kwun Tong Rd.: entrées \$11-\$14.

Tin Lung Heen The Ritz-Carlton's Chinese restaurant offers an elevated take on dim sum-as well as sweeping views of the water. ritzcarlton. com/hongkong; small plates \$11-\$17.



HERE AND NOW: **MUST-HAVES** p. 34 Lowa (888-335-5692; lowa

boots.com): Adidas (adidas outdoor.com); The North Face (thenorthface.com): Asolo (603-448-8827; asolousa.com); Vasque (800-224-4453; vasque.com).

HERE AND NOW: MOOD BOARD p. 40

New York Stoneware (212-431-3777; newyorkstoneware. com): Mandarin Oriental Marrakech (mandarinoriental com); Lanvin vest, \$7,885, jacket, \$3,420, pants, \$2,180, shoes, \$2.690, bag, \$3.350. choker \$1,285, and necklace, \$950 (Lanvin New York 815 Madison Ave., N.Y.C.: 646-439-0380; lanvin.com); Aveda (800-644-4831; aveda. com); Lancôme (800-526-2663: lancome.com): Valentino (valentino.com); Stella McCartney (Stella McCartney,

112 Greene St., N.Y.C.; 212-255-

1556); Phaidon (phaidon.com).



(Aveyron, continued from page 164)

magnificent Romanesque structure with a large semicircular frieze above the entrance—a sort of medieval comic strip carved in stone—depicting the Last Judgment. Over here are the joys of heaven (with prophets and saints) and the horrors of hell (with gargoyles and demons). Over there, the sinners, including a bare-breasted adulteress and a liar whose tongue is being cut off, fall into eternal hellfire.

Since the Middle Ages, the abbey has been a major stop on the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route that wends its way through France to Spain. It also holds one of the most important collections of medieval and Renaissance goldwork in Western Europe. A gold reliquary contains a skull fragment of the third-century martyr Sainte Foy, a girl who was

convicted, roasted on a grill, and decapitated by the Romans for refusing to renounce Christianity.

It was here that, as a young boy, Pierre Soulages said he experienced his first "artistic emotions" and decided to devote his life to art. In 1994 the abbey installed 104 windows of his design—a series of striped panels, no two the same. They change color with the time of day and with reflections from outside, casting the church's brooding artworks and relics in ever-shifting patterns of light. It was a strikingly similar experience to looking at Peinture 162 x 724 cm.

Aveyron boosters thought the region might take off once before, with the opening of the Millau Viaduct in 2004. Taller than the Eiffel Tower and longer than the Champs-Élysées, it is a delicate web of steel and concrete, and a triumph of engineering and imagination. Sweeping 11/2 miles across the Tarn Valley, it dominates the skyline. Its architect, Norman Foster, and its engineer, Michel Virlogeux, used lightweight, high-tech materials to give drivers crossing the bridge the feeling of flying. From afar, the bridge's thin white suspension cables blend so

naturally with a blue sky that when the sun is right, the cables magically disappear, one after the other.

But it's an older kind of craftsmanship that Millau is known for. Until the late 1960s, the town was the French capital for the manufacture of kid gloves, producing 4 million pairs a year. Now, only a few glove makers remain. I went to visit one of the leading houses, Maison Fabre, a fourthgeneration establishment that still uses a 90-year-old press. One of the artisans, Christian Canillac, showed me the atelier where he stretches and pounds kidskin until it is as supple as silk, and where seamstresses cut, embroider, and seguin each pair by hand.

Maison Fabre has made gloves for Dior and Nicole Kidman (when she portrayed Princess Grace, herself once a customer), and the showroom stocks hundreds of models, from the simple (I picked up an olive-green suede pair for \$60) to the sublime (a prunecolored elbow-length model with python fringe and red suede inserts).

I asked Jean-Marc Fabre, who runs the factory, how Fabre survives, when so many small French artisans have gone out of business. "There are

(Continued on page 190)

ONBOARD-

Travel + Leisure Events Promotions Offers

TRAVEL ACADEMY BVI

This May, The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board hosted a group of 12 experts comprised of Travel + Leisure Travel Advisory Board (TAB) members and travel specialists.

The Travel Academy group came together to experience Rosewood Little Dix Bay and Peter Island Resort & Spa, where they took part in interactive workshops to discuss the BVI as a travel destination. The program commenced with a welcome dinner hosted by Rosewood Little Dix Bay, where Dr. The Honourable Orlando Smith welcomed the group. Activities included the exploration of Devil's Bay & Baths National Park, Virgin Gorda, and a seafood smoking and grilling class at Peter Island Resort & Spa.

















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(Aveyron, continued from page 188) enormously rich people in the world," he said. "We have good clients."

Roquefort-sur-Soulzon, a half-hour from Millau, announces itself even before you arrive, with large green-and-white billboards from the cheese manufacturer Roquefort Société advertising its tours and free tastings. But we'd planned on visiting Carles, which my cheesemonger in Paris swears makes the finest Roquefort in the land. Delphine Carles, the third-generation proprietor, and her small staff make the cheese by hand, and age thousands of wheels on oak shelves in damp caves ventilated by natural tunnels.

Although Carles mostly sells wholesale and does not offer tours, it welcomes visitors. Step through the door and a pungent smell permeates your nose and throat. Delphine was not too busy, so she explained how she makes a dust of penicillin mold from her grandfather's secret recipe and showed me how she bores into a Roquefort wheel to test its ripeness, and, bien sûr, how to taste. "We put our energy into our cheese, not our publicity," she said. "You have to find us."

Another famous Aveyronnais product is the folding Laguiole knife, from the town of the same name in the rockand lava-filled Aubrac plateau to the north. At the family-owned Coutellerie de Laguiole Honoré Durand, artisans pound, fire, and forge sheets of steel into blades, and shape horn and wood into elegant curved handles in view of any casual visitor. Every knife is stamped with the Honoré Durand name and comes with a free-repair guarantee. But because the name Laguiole is not patented, anyone can use it—like "herbes de Provence"and Coutellerie de Laguiole maintains a small exhibit of counterfeits from places like Pakistan and China.

I asked Honoré Durand, who runs the operation, about the difference between a Swiss Army knife and a Laguiole. "Laguiole is for slicing a piece of apple for your beloved," he said. "It's elegant, beautiful, noble. It feels good in your hand."

And there are rituals to learn: When the head of the family clicks his knife closed, the sound means that the meal has come to an end. A Laguiole knife is like a toothbrush; it is never lent to others. And it is bad luck to offer a knife as a gift; it must be "bought" with a coin in exchange.

Ten minutes from the Coutellerie de Laguiole is Michel Bras' Le Suquet, Aveyron's only Michelin three-starred restaurant. Bras learned his craft not from a famous chef but from his mother, Angèle, who opened an inn and restaurant with her husband, Marcel, in 1954. At a time when French chefs were becoming stars, Bras earned a reputation as the silent chef, almost pathologically shy, passionate about foraging and cultivating wild roots, leaves, herbs, and flowers. Plants like nettle, dandelion, and mugwort became part of his repertoire.

Bras' son, Sébastien, who has been working in the kitchen since he was a teenager, took over in 2009 from his father, now 68. And as a tribute to Angèle Bras, her version of aligot—a dense, impossibly stretchy purée made by slowly stirring a local cheese into garlic-heavy mashed potatoes—is still offered at every meal.

The restaurant, with its small hotel, looks like a metal-and-glass spaceship hovering precariously on the edge of a cliff over the Aubrac plateau. It's a cinematic setting—cocktails with a 360-degree view of the countryside. And it's enormously popular. Both the restaurant and the hotel are booked long in advance, with a clientele that is only 20 percent non-French.

The food is exquisitely beautiful, and a vegetarian's heaven. One signature dish, the gargouillou, is a burst of color, texture, and taste made with 50 varieties of flowers, herbs, seeds, leaves, and barely cooked vegetable drops. After dishes of such delicate and intellectual, rather than sensual. pleasure, I admit I was left with a hunger for authentic local cookingfor beef from golden-hued Aubrac cows, tripoux (vegetable-and-herbinfused sheep innards), and truffade (a pancake of sliced potatoes cooked in goose fat and mixed with tome fraîche cheese).

A food critic friend had told me about a woman named Colette who runs a small restaurant in Cassuéjouls, not far from where we were staying. We arrived unannounced at Chez Colette in the late morning. The restaurant was on the town square, which consisted of a small church, a war memorial, a row of chestnut trees, and a field for playing *boules*. Six locals were sitting outside drinking red wine sweetened with crème de cassis.

It wasn't yet lunchtime, and Colette Pastissier, a slim woman of about 50, was ironing table linens. She was happy to take a break and have us sample that day's fare: baby goat with sorrel, a walnut tart with Roquefort sauce, and an oyster mushroom flan. "I would never change a comma of these recipes," she said proudly. "We must preserve our heritage."

The tasting whetted our appetites for the lunch that would follow at Chez Marinette, up a narrow, winding, not-for-the-timid-motorist road past small vineyards in Le Fel (population 156), 45 minutes away. The detour to Colette's meant we arrived nearly an hour late for our reservation. Diners seated at tables outside were just finishing their lunch. Marinette Mousset, who is 81, sat at a table inside the entrance, peeling fat garlic cloves. I pleaded with her to receive us. All I wanted, I said, was to try her roast chicken, reputed to be the finest in the region. She relented, insisting we start with homemade foie gras garnished with poached pears and fig compote.

The chicken arrived, its skin a translucent, deep gold. Thick sauce formed yellow- and caramel-colored pools on the platter. I ate it with a glass of 2011 Domaine Mousset, a wine made from Mansois, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes by Marinette's nephew Laurent Mousset. The ground here is laced with volcanic stone, and the wine had an intensely powerful flavor and aroma.

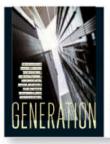
I hadn't experienced a Proustian moment of memory before then. But with one sip, I was transported back to my childhood in Buffalo, New York, to my grandfather's kitchen table. I was drinking the same tannic, volcanic wine he made every summer in our backyard. He stored it in barrels in the basement, and served it in small, short-stemmed glasses. I still have several of those glasses, and it gives me great pleasure to drink from them.



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(Hong Kong, continued from page 184)

Finnish-born restaurateur Jaakko Sorsa, the executive chef of FINDS, a modern Nordic restaurant housed in the Luxe Manor in Tsim Sha Tsui. "She also brings me passion fruit—in the wild, they're more acidic."

Sorsa, who was recently named Hong Kong Chef of the Year by the local magazine Foodie, remains faithful to his European roots. His 12-course "Nordic Express" tasting menu reimagines smørrebrød, the Danish open-faced sandwich, and features sea buckthorn berry and pickled spruce shoots. But the restaurant has also evolved to honor local culture (a family-style menu is popular) and to include Huang's bounty (her licorice goes in the desserts). The two are working on a book about subtropical foraging. "People say, 'What do you mean that herb was picked here?" Sorsa said. "It's all an education."

NOTHING STAYS THE SAME FOR LONG IN

Hong Kong—not the skyline, not the fashion, not the slang. Even the fortune-telling business at the Temple Street Night Market, a tourist magnet in Kowloon, has shifted. Traditional numerologists and clairvoyants who read palms to predict the future used to dominate. "A few years ago, the tarot-card readers began to take over, appealing to Westerners," Paul Chan, who runs Walk in Hong Kong, told me.

He regards such change with aplomb—that's capitalism, and this is Hong Kong, after all. A former political aide and lecturer who then went into finance, Chan recently quit banking to give walking tours full-time. His itineraries are varied—one spotlights Sheung Wan, a Hong Kong Island neighborhood beloved by expats that's full of art galleries and third-wave coffee joints, but several wend through Kowloon, where he grew up. "For a comprehensive feel, go to Hong Kong

Island," Chan said. "But you must come to this side as well."

Chan's meticulously researched itineraries use the streetscape as a classroom, weaving together history, economics, and anthropology. A couple of blocks north of the night market, we stopped into Yim Yeung Tin, a traditional singing parlor, where the \$3 cover charge gets you a cup of tea and entrée to one of the kitschiest experiences in town. Plastic printed with gaudy pink roses covered the tables, and disco balls showered rainbow light all over the scuffed linoleum floors. Onstage, under fluttering paper banners wishing you а нарру NEW YEAR, a woman in jeggings and a rhinestone headband sang Cantonese and Mandarin pop standards, accompanied by a seventy something man in khaki shorts and Crocs playing a Yamaha keyboard. It was magical. "To get in touch with local culture," Chan said, "you have to visit these places."

Like many people I met, Chan kept referring to Hong Kong's "core values." In his view, they had shifted. "One of the underlying causes of the Umbrella Movement was a value change between the generations," he said. "In the past, the focus was on efficiency, prosperity, and stability. Now, it's cultural preservation, worklife balance, and conservation."

Conservation honors heritage, and heritage provides context. One morning, I visited the refurbished Yau Ma Tei Theatre. Built in 1930, it is one of Hong Kong's only surviving cinemas from the silent-film era. Today, its Art Deco touches restored, the theater stages Cantonese opera, and performances take place at least once a week. (Though the operas are in Cantonese, English-language programs guide foreign visitors through.)

I sat in the 300-seat auditorium with Angel Leung, a law student and rising operatic star. She explained that Cantonese opera features minimal sets—when an actor opens a door, you'll see no physical door, just vigorous hand gestures. Costumes, however, are lavish constructions of silk.

The stories in Cantonese opera are always rooted in history and typically reflect traditional Confucian values, such as filial piety. A few days earlier, Leung had performed in a piece that

told the tale of a general who sends his son to war. The son falls in love with a woman, and his father orders him executed for getting married during wartime—a distraction to the warrior's spirit. The story takes place some thousand years ago, during the Song dynasty, when China was also politically riven. "In those days, it wasn't just one leader," she said. Leung was cagey about her own views toward Beijing, but noted that her generation isn't as politically monolithic as it may have seemed in reports about the protests. "How do you determine who was right or wrong? I wouldn't die for a change in government—but it's something I would do onstage."

IN THE LATE 1200S, A CONTINGENT OF WARtime refugees reached Hong Kong. The Song dynasty was in its sunset, and the court of the child emperor Duanzong fled south, taking shelter at Silver Mine Bay.

Today, the bay remains a lovely escape, popular on weekends and holidays. But this was a Monday afternoon. When I boarded the boat from the Central Ferry Pier to Lantau Island and the village of Mui Wo, which sits on Silver Mine, I counted no more than 20 other people. At the beach itself, a few elderly women in conical hats swept the sand. Turning my eyes landward, I saw a path leading uphill, toward Discovery Bay. So I took it.

Over the past decade, hiking has become very popular here, and a friend had recommended this route. Yet I had it all to myself—and I quickly learned why. The steepening path turned to stairs and more stairs. My thighs screamed, and in the sauna-like afternoon my shirt was sopping. My eyes scanned for shade, but I saw only more stairs.

Farther uphill, I sat on a step to take in the lovely view. Cicadas erupted in a loud chorus, as if to urge me on. At the top, I collapsed onto a bench and caught the panorama. From here, Hong Kong looked like a collection of half-filled green pincushions holding skyscraper needles, sitting atop a blanket of glitter and blue. The city and its worries felt far away. A few clouds hung in the sky. The seas were calm. Everything seemed possible. •

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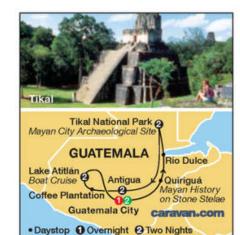


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(Virginia, continued from page 176)

are more challenging, but Piedmont, Italy, where I'm from, is not much different. The last I heard, they've done pretty well."

If the tasting room at Barboursville has a formal atmosphere, the one at Michael Shaps Wineworks, just a few miles from Trump, is more unplugged. Past a foxhound-breeder's business, at the end of a long and unpromising gravel road, sits a sign to reassure visitors: YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

Shaps is an industry veteran who also makes wine from some of the best vineyards in Burgundy. Many of his Virginia wines follow the Burgundian négociant approach, blending grapes from different plots, instead of the "estate" model that prevails here. Both Shaps and 39-year-old winemaker Ben Jordan (who just left, amicably, for a new gig at the nearby Early Mountain Vineyards) have enjoyed the flexibility that comes with buying other grapes to get the best of what's out there. "The future is wide open," Jordan explained when I showed up one hot afternoon. "You can outgrow your estate." Michael Shaps Wineworks feels like a breath of fresh air, from the sleek design (corrugated metal reclaimed from a tobacco barn lines the walls) to the millennial-friendly growler program. It costs \$10 for a 64-ounce glass jug, which can be filled (and refilled) with their Mon Bidon red, white, or rosé for a mere \$25. All that American history isn't weighing down innovation.

A similar attitude can be found

among the chefs and restaurateurs in Charlottesville, a natural stopover in the Monticello AVA. It has the refined vet raucous atmosphere distinctive of most college towns; experimentation is not only welcomed but expected. Last fall, the dining scene got a youthful jolt when four friends—Mitchell Beerens, Ian Redshaw, Andrew Cole, and Loren Mendosa—opened the Neapolitan pizzeria Lampo, a hit with University of Virginia students. "We used to go to D.C. for decent pizza," Beerens jokes. The foursome personally lifted off the building's roof to install a three-ton MG Forni oven, which had been shipped from Naples, and even raised money for the meat slicer on Indiegogo. The pies? Perfectly blistered.

"Charlottesville has pretty killer food," said 36-year-old Daniel Kaufman as we shared a dozen Black Bear Point oysters at his restaurant, Public Fish & Oyster. This casual, exposed-brick spot, which focuses on seafood from the East Coast, has been packed with residents and tourists since its opening a year and a half ago. Like many local places, it also features some Virginia wines. (A moderate \$20 corkage fee also encourages customers to bring in area bottlings.) "Young people are getting into the mix. It's competitive, but we respect each other. I borrow sugar from my neighbors and that's not a metaphor."

Proving the point, Kaufman directed me across West Main Street to Gearharts Fine Chocolates. The co-owner, Tim Gearhart, was a cook in the Marines before opening his two-story shop in 2001. Students and their well-heeled parents gave the business an immediate boost, which eventually led to national recognition. But the whole operation still feels mom-and-pop. Gearhart and his team handcraft each chocolate, using ingredients like cracked pepper, balsamic vinegar, and Cabernet

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Franc—sourced, naturally, from local producers like Barboursville.

After a couple of nights, I left Charlottesville behind for northern Virginia, a region just two hours north but with very different growing conditions. Arriving at Linden Vineyards, I could see right away what was different: the soil. Unlike Monticello's signature red clay, the terrain here is rocky—ideal for planting Cabernet Sauvignon. That's why winemaker and proprietor Jim Law calls one of his bottlings Hardscrabble, and it's arguably Virginia's best Cabernet blend, ripe with black-currant flavor.

Law has been working this land, which he bought in 1983, for most of his adult life. "It took us 15 years to figure that out," he told me, pointing at the tighter spacing of the vine rows, a seemingly minor detail that is helping him achieve better results. "I'm making wines for top tasters and sommeliers. Money's a little tight, but I can't imagine doing anything else."

Rutger de Vink, the Dutch-born founder of RdV Vineyards, some 13 miles east, once worked under Law, and matches his mentor's level of devotion. "We're no longer hobbyists," he says, preaching Virginia's progress as gospel. Spokesmodelhandsome, with a thatch of wavy hair, de Vink has won over critics with two richly textured, small-production Cabernet blends.

From afar, de Vink's winery looks like a white clapboard farm, but inside it's thoroughly modern, and the "silo" is actually a James Turrell—like space that glows at night. Instead of a bland, cavernous tasting room, he's installed an intimate salon decorated with Eames chairs where you can sample both of his premium Cabs. You'd imagine de Vink living in a glass house, but the reality is even better: he bunks with his two children in an Airstream trailer in the vineyards. "I love the land," he says. "It's a way of life."

Not that all of the locals get it, even now. The man who sold him the land, an Angus-cattle farmer who still lives next door, told de Vink at the closing: "Ain't nothing gonna grow on that pile of rocks." Maybe you can't get blood from a stone, but wine? You can in Virginia, more and more every day.





































05-09-15 Air Postcard (平)菱鹽也引

filled up on traditional barbecue, and joined locals at an unmarked karaoke lounge.

A CALM IS NOT DESIRABLE IN ANY SITUATION IN LIFE ABIGAIL ADAMS











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